Honasan leads Recto in Lanao Sur 'slow' count

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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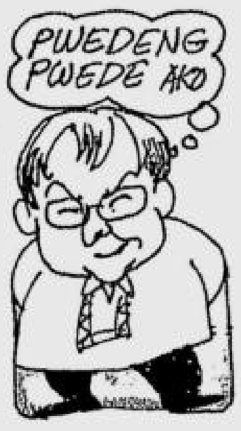
Joker turns media-shy

BY A. NOCUM

THE UNTHINKABLE has happened—Senator-elect Joker Arroyo has become media-shy. For a week now

JOKER/ A4



Chinoys gung-ho over independence celebration

BY JULIET JAVELLANA

ON THE EVE of Independence Day, it seemed as though the people most excited about the 103rd anniversary were not Pinoys but Chinoys.

Chinese-Filipino businessmen yesterday gave President Macapagal-Arroyo P1 million for the families of soldiers wounded or killed in the operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

The donation marked the kick-off of a fundraising campaign of the Chinese-Filipino Business Club in observance of the national holiday.

In a heartwarming gesture, schoolchildren from various Chinese schools in Metro Manila also offered their own contribution to the cause.

Waving Philippine flags, children of mostly wealthy Chinese-Filipinos gave Ms Macapagal piggy banks containing their savings from their school allowances.

Before the 8:30 a.m. program at the St. Stephen's High School in Sta. Cruz, Manila, the business group's hundreds of members installed miniature Philippine flags on Manila's major bridges—Delpan, Jones, Quezon and Ayala—"to help rekindle patriotism."

CHINOYS/ A18

Estrada's lawyers say justice biased

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

JOSEPH Estrada's lawyers yesterday accused a Sandiganbayan justice of partiality and asked him to inhibit himself from future proceedings in the ousted President's plunder case.

The lawyers claimed that Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr., chair of the anti-graft court's third division, "has lost the cold neutrality of an impartial judge and should therefore voluntarily recuse himself" from the proceedings.

They made the request as they asked the Sandiganbayan, in an expected move, to reconsider its decision to deny Estrada's petition for house arrest.

The lawyers said that Badoy "unexpectedly praised the removal of President Estrada" in an epilogue attached to the court decision released Saturday.

In a 16-page motion, defense counsel Rene Saguisag and other Estrada lawyers contended that certain passages in Badoy's epilogue had "telegraphed" how the justice would judge the case.

"He must know that acquittal here could lead to theoretical reinstatement but by commending the supra-constitutional mode of succession of last January—something better left unsaid in this criminal case—he has boxed himself and thrown his weight on one side," the lawyers said. (They added that they were not seeking Estrada's reinstatement for the good of the nation.)

The defense claimed that portions of Badoy's three-page epilogue, which mainly called for pe-

ESTRADA'S/ A18

JOAN BONDOC

"OUR recent struggles are but a fraction of what our heroes had to endure in their fight for independence," says President Macapagal during a grand salute to the Filipino flag Monday at St. Stephen's High School in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

103RD INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mabini: It is not enough to be free

BY CHRISTINE G. DULNUAN
National Historical Institute

AFTER more than 200 revolts launched through 300 years of Spanish rule, the Philippines unilaterally declared its independence on June 12, 1898. Historians of oriental history acknowledge the Philippine Republic as the first in Asia.

The reasons for the rebellions varied—against the *polo y servicios* (forced labor), religious questions and reforms. The rebellions eventually led to a national revolution with a common battle cry. "Independence!" Blood drenched Philippine soil, many lives were lost in the battlefields, in the gallows and by firing squad.

For many years, winning the battle seemed futile but persistence had its rewards: The battle was won, independence was declared. This brought much rejoicing to the battle-weary Filipinos.

Except for Apolinario Mabini. He saw the event differently. He thought that the declaration of independence was "premature and imprudent." To him, gaining inde-

MABINI/ A18

Gov't blinks, agrees to talk with bandits

Palace says turnaround is to ensure hostages' safety

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

THREATENED by the beheading of the Americans held by the Abu Sayyaf, Malacañang yesterday said it was agreeing to the bandit group's demand to include a Malaysian ex-senator in negotiations for the hostages' release.

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson of President Macapagal-Arroyo, told reporters at a mid-afternoon briefing that Manila had formally sent a request to Kuala Lumpur to allow Sairin Karno to assist Malacañang's designated negotiator, William Castillo.

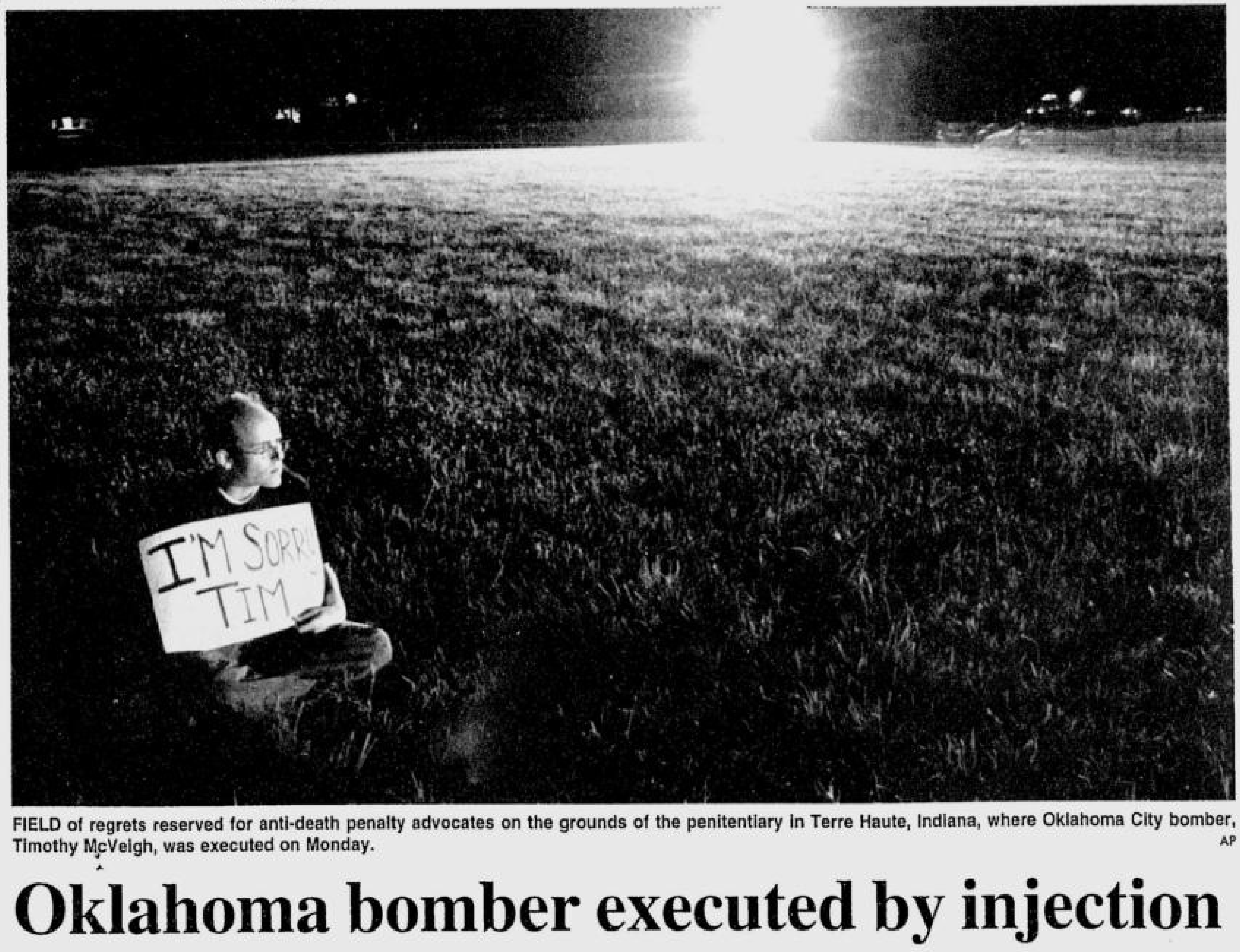
Tiglao said it was "a small price to pay" to ensure the hostages' safety.

Kuala Lumpur has yet to respond to the request. Last week it said it was not inclined to mediate in the hostage crisis.

Tiglao rejected suggestions that Malacañang was going soft in the face of blackmail, saying military operations against the bandits would continue.

"As far as the military is concerned, I am not withdrawing (my troops) from anywhere," Agence France Presse quoted Col. Hermogenes Esperon, head of the

GOV'T/ A18



FIELD of regrets reserved for anti-death penalty advocates on the grounds of the penitentiary in Terre Haute, Indiana, where Oklahoma City bomber, Timothy McVeigh, was executed on Monday.
AP

Oklahoma bomber executed by injection

McVeigh's last words: I am the master of my fate . . .

TERRE HAUTE, Indiana—The government that Timothy McVeigh so despised executed him by chemical injection Monday, taking his life in exchange for the 168 lives lost when he blew up the Oklahoma City federal building six years ago.

McVeigh, 33, was defiant to the end. He died silently, with his eyes open.

Instead of making an oral statement, the Oklahoma City bomber issued a copy of the 1875 poem "Invictus," which concludes with the lines: "I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul."

Warden Harley Lappin pronounced him dead at 8:14 a.m. EDT (1214 GMT), the first federal prisoner executed in 38 years.

In Oklahoma City, about 300 survivors and victims' relatives gathered to watch a closed-circuit TV broadcast of the execution, sent from Terre Haute in a feed encrypted to guard against interception. Other survivors and victims embraced each other at the memorial marking the bombing site.

The lethal injection was admin-

OKLAHOMA/ A15

AFP advised: More brains, not brawn

BY CARLITO PABLO

MORE brains, not brawn.

This was the message yesterday of a retired national police chief to the military which came under fire again after Abu Sayyaf bandits managed to seize additional hostages, this time in Lantawan town. ***(See story at left.)***

Earlier, the military drew flak for the killing of two suspected bandits on the outskirts of Basilan's capital. Relatives said the victims were civilians.

Ramon Montaño, former chief of the defunct Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police, said the military was applying the wrong strategy in Basilan.

"They should dammit move,

AFP/ A18

Abus raze chapel, seize 15 more hostages

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau
CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO
AND CARLITO PABLO

ABU SAYYAF bandits led by a commander, who reportedly sailed from Sulu, razed a chapel and seized 15 additional hostages, including Muslim and Christian children, from a plantation in Lantawan town in Basilan yesterday morning.

As of 7:30 last night, reports from Lantawan said two of the workers seized from the Golden Harvest Plantation had been found dead.

The Abu Sayyaf was already holding 13 people including three Americans before they seized additional hostages.

Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan identified the leader of the group that raided the 300-hectare plantation in Barangay Tairan as Isnilon Japilon.

But reports from Isabela City, Basilan's capital, said Commanders Omair and Basar Taib led the raid at 9 a.m.

Adan said the raid was meant to ease the pressure on the "main body" led by Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadafy Janjalani and spokesperson Abu Sabaya.

A military intelligence report said Janjalani and Sabaya's group was in Lantawan as early as 4 a.m. Sunday.

The group and their 13 hos-

ABUS/ A18

Second FRONT PAGE

TURUAN NA KUNG SINO ANG NANDAYA

Groups want Moro talks in Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—Activist groups here want peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to be held in Mindanao, saying this would ensure that the people of Mindanao would be able to participate in the process.

"Holding the talks in Mindanao will bring the process to the people. We Mindanaoans should be able to resolve our conflicts in our own turf," the Mindanao Tri-People's Caucus said in a statement released on Sunday.

The MPC, composed of some 11 organizations, including the militant Task Force Detainees of the Philippines and Akbayan, said grassroots peace advocates and civil society groups in Mindanao would be closely observing and monitoring the (peace) process "as major stakeholders in the search for peace in Mindanao."

It called on the government to ensure transparency and to regularly report to the Mindanaoans major developments in the restarted peace talks.

"We will likewise demand this from the MILF panel, as we also seek an audience with them," the MPC said.

But it noted that transparency was not enough. It said the government and the MILF panels should create and maintain mechanisms for consulting with the people. *Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Gringo leads Lanao count

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE MUNICIPAL certificates of canvass for Lanao del Sur were finally opened yesterday with Sen. Gregorio Honasan taking an early lead of 2,928 votes over Sen. Ralph Recto in the towns of Marogong, Kapai and Wao.

And with 36 more certificates of canvass to go, lawyers for the People Power Coalition and the Puwersa ng Masa have begun trading charges of fraud.

Former immigration commissioner Rufus Rodriguez, lawyer for Sen. Luisa Ejercito of the PnM who is in 11th place, scoffed at PPC projections that 12th placer Sen. Ralph Recto will win in Lanao del Sur over 13th ranking Sen. Gregorio Honasan by at least 15,000 votes.

"That's impossible because the trend shows that Muslims voted for PnM," Rodriguez said. "Partial results show that Lanao del Sur is opposition country."

Bribery evidence

The election officer of Sultan Kudarat town in Maguindanao, meanwhile, filed charges for violation of the Omnibus Election Code against Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen for threatening her when she reported his alleged attempt to bribe her into padding his votes and that of other PnM candidates.

Mary Ann Mangudadatu, Sultan Kudarat election officer, said she would present during the preliminary investigation the P50,000 in cash that Dilangalen allegedly left for her on May 19 at the home of a certain Haydee Dilangalen Mamalinta in Cotabato City.

Ejercito got 1,533 more votes than Recto in the three Lanao del Sur towns canvassed yesterday. The breakdown of the votes per town is as follows:

Marogong—Ejercito, 137; Honasan, 1,866; Recto, 551; Kapai—Ejercito, 43; Honasan, 39; Recto, 523; and Wao—Ejercito, 5,030; Honasan, 4,700, and Recto, 2,603.

Still to be canvassed are the COCs from 35 towns and Marawi City.

Romulo Macalintal, Recto's lawyer, said he will file a petition with the provincial board of canvassers to exclude the COC of Marogong town since there were indications the election returns had been tampered with.

The 285,000 votes expected from Lanao del Sur will determine the final standings of the 12th and 13th placers among the newly proclaimed senators.

Slow count

Honasan, currently at 13th place based on 101 of 102 certificates of canvass, is 22,836 votes behind Recto, while Ejercito leads Recto by 69,566 votes and Honasan by 94,402 ballots.

Macalintal said the canvassing should take two weeks at most, based on the pace of the canvassing yesterday.

He said the canvassing was being slowed by the heat and the lack of a decent sound system at the venue, an abandoned office that was being used as a stockroom.

Lawyers and members of the BOC could hardly hear each other during the proceedings, while debris had barely been swept near the entrance.

Earlier in the day, a fuming Rodriguez questioned the "no show" by the National Board of Canvassers, or the Comelec en banc, at a scheduled hearing on his twin petitions to reopen the COCs of nine towns of Maguindanao and Lanao del Norte where 114,027 votes for Recto were being disputed.

Padded

"We can already see the hand of the administration," Rodriguez said, after he waited from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Comelec session hall only to be told that the hearing was postponed "until further notice."

"There is an effort by the administration to influence the Comelec into not granting the petition of Ejercito regarding the nine towns in Maguindanao and Lanao del Norte," Rodriguez said.

Earlier, Rodriguez succeeded in having 93,000 votes in Tawi-Tawi, Sultan Kudarat and Zamboanga del Norte deducted from Recto after the NBC found proof that these had been padded onto the latter's tally.

Rodriguez said the NBC should resolve his petitions before June 20, the deadline for the filing of election protests in connection with the senatorial polls.

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Erap crony blamed for Duty Free woes

By Armand N. Nocum

DUTY Free Philippines Inc. (DFPI) incurred huge loses during the shortened term of former President Joseph Estrada because the latter allowed his friend, Lucio Lao Co, to operate duty free concessions.

This was the assertion made yesterday by former DFPI general manager Benjamin Lim who told a Senate panel that will investigate the P5 billion in losses at Duty Free to begin its probe with Co.

Lim recalled that when Estrada appointee Faustino Salud took over his post three years ago, the latter "acknowledged" that DFPI's debts stood at more than P1 billion.

"Now that Sen. Loren Legarda has placed the losses at P5 billion, we have to ask where the P3 billion came from," Lim said in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

Last week, Legarda, chair of the Senate committee on tourism, said she was initiating an investigation into the DFPI's losses which she attributed to funds mismanagement and other irregularities during the past 12 years.

Lim noted that DFPI's profits took a nosedive in the three years under Salud.

He attributed this to Salud's decision to grant Co a concession to operate the DFPI outlets in Davao, Laoag and Cebu cities and Clark Air Base in Pampanga.

The decision, he said, definitely affected DFPI operations because the four duty free outlets were allegedly "used for smuggling" by Co.

"Not only did this affect the viability of Duty Free. (Co) became a direct competitor," he said.

Co, an alleged crony of Estrada, has been on authorities' lists of suspected smugglers in the country.

He is known as the "chicken king" and was blamed for the widespread sale of US chicken, cigarettes and canned goods at very low prices.

Lim, a former congressman, said he initiated an investigation of Co in the House last year but the probe went nowhere after former customs commissioner Nelson Tan reportedly refused to turn over documents relating to Co's alleged smuggling activities.

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DFA to sack honorary consul over fake $25-B bond

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs is set to sack the country's honorary consul general in Montreal, Canada, who was arrested in London with her sister while attempting to cash a fake $25-billion bond.

DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said honorary consul general to Montreal Erlinda Quintos-Brewster will be terminated as soon as enough evidence is gathered "to prove the charges (against her)."

Brewster and her sister, Lourdes Quintos, were nabbed June 2 by British police while trying to cash a fake $25 billion US Federal Bank Reserve note at a London bank.

They were charged with two counts of fraud for possession of a "forged instrument" and attempting to use it.

"If the evidence is very strong, we have no obligation to keep her," Lecaros said.

Lecaros said that as honorary consul general, Brewster enjoyed diplomatic privileges only while performing her duties in Montreal and was not on the government payroll.

The DFA official said Brewster was not even a Filipino citizen. He pointed out that it was British authorities who informed the Canadian Embassy about Brewster's arrest, not Philippine authorities.

"I doubt if she was cashing the bond in behalf of the Philippine government so it may be assumed she tried to cash it in her own capacity," Lecaros said.

However, he said, the Philippine government was duty-bound to extend assistance to Brewster's sister who holds a Philippine passport.

Brewster is a real estate developer who acquired Canadian citizenship 23 years ago. She was appointed honorary consul general to Canada in 1996.

Filipinos in Canada had earlier lodged complaints against Brewster whom they accused of overpricing consular fees.

Brewster and Quintos were held at a London jail until they posted bail for their temporary liberty.

Gov't, NDF tackle social economic reforms in Oslo

OSLO, Norway—Government and leftist rebel negotiators said they had reached the "meat" of their peace talks as they began yesterday the second round of negotiations aimed at settling a 32-year-old communist insurgency.

The talks, expected to last through Friday, will focus mainly on social and economic reforms and the implementation of an agreement on human rights.

Negotiators returned to the Norwegian capital on Sunday and met briefly to set a schedule.

The meetings, part of a three-step negotiation process designed to end the communist conflict in 18 months, began last April in a four-day session that marked a resumption of negotiations that broke down in 1999. That session ended with what both sides described as unexpected progress.

Confident

"This is the meat of the talks. We are confident that we can overcome the obstacles," Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, a member of the government panel, said just after he arrived at the hotel where the negotiations are being held.

The National Democratic Front, the rebel umbrella group handling the negotiations with the government, began the session yesterday by extending its condolences to Braganza on the death of his mother.

In a press statement faxed from Oslo, the NDF said the largest bloc of time had been given to the reciprocal working committees on socio-economic reforms.

It listed the topics for discussion by the committees as: the preamble and declaration of principles, the national economy, economic sovereignty and national patrimony, agrarian reform and agricultural development.

The Oslo session begins just days after an attack on a group of United States Navy servicemen by suspected guerrillas of the communist New People's Army.

Positive mood

On Saturday, chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello III described the attack as a blow to confidence-building measures.

However, on Sunday, Luis Jalandoni, the Netherlands-based NDF leader, said: "Basically, I think there is still a positive mood."

Braganza said he expected spirited and difficult sessions, "but the important thing is that we are talking."

Working groups for both sides met in Manila on June 4 and 5 on a proposed social and economic reforms agreement, and Jalandoni said their work would continue in Oslo.

The peace process is to be divided into three six-month steps, starting with social and economic reforms, then political and constitutional reforms, then finally an end to hostilities.

The rebels have demanded good faith gestures, including the release of political prisoners, land reform and wage increases. The government has called on the rebels to end the use of children in fighting.

The government of Norway is acting as host but is not taking an active part in the talks.

The leftist guerrillas began fighting for a Marxist state in 1969. The conflict has killed and displaced thousands and hindered economic development.

The rebels withdrew from an earlier round of talks in May 1999 after claiming the previous government of jailed President Joseph Estrada had violated previous agreements. *AP*

Pinoy's macho image a bane to birth control, says expert

BY Y. FUERTES
PDI N. Luzon Bureau

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—It is the Filipino male's macho self-image that stands in the way of the country's population program in that Filipino men believe having many children is proof of their virility.

While Filipino wives have accepted the necessity of controlling the size of their families, their husbands haven't, said Luzviminda Muego, the provincial population officer for Pangasinan.

"We find it difficult to convince the husbands even if they already have 10 children to undergo vasectomy because of the perception that they are no longer macho if they can no longer sire a child," Muego said.

There is also the prevailing misconception that sterilized men "can no longer function mentally and physically well."

Citing the State of the Philippine Population (SPPR) 2000 report published by the Commission on Population, Muego said that it is the Filipino husband who makes all decisions for the family, including how many children to have and when to have them.

And Filipino husbands typically object to the use of contraception, she added.

"Sadly, most Filipino women are still not empowered to decide on the number of children to have, what family planning method to use or whether to use a method (at all), leaving these decisions (to) the husband," she said.

Muego said that while some Filipino men want to limit the number of children, they refuse modern birth-control methods such as the pill and "injectables."

They prefer instead the traditional methods such as withdrawal and rhythm which are not as effective.

Several government hospitals in the province offer free male sterilization (vasectomy) but only a handful have availed of the services.

Reports collated by the Pangasinan provincial population office from five government hospitals here show that only four men underwent vasectomy from 1996 to 2000.

By contrast, 8,215 women underwent female voluntary sterilization in these hospitals.

Reports from the municipal population offices show that for more than 10 years, only 29 men had vasectomies.

Muego noted that the only reason husbands would consent to have a vasectomy is when their wives' lives would be put at risk from another pregnancy.

The SPPR indicates that men tend to be the ultimate decision-makers in most sexual relationships, on childbearing and even child-rearing issues.

"One study shows that disagreements on fertility desires between Filipino husbands and wives are most striking at ages 40 to 44, when the proportion of men who still want children is almost twice as large as the proportion among women," the report said.

Disagreements among the couples about the number of children they can have and the timing of their pregnancies are often resolved with the husband's decision prevailing over the wife's

Women tend to submit to their husband's decision to preserve marital harmony, the study said.

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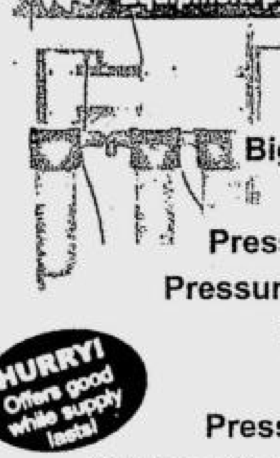

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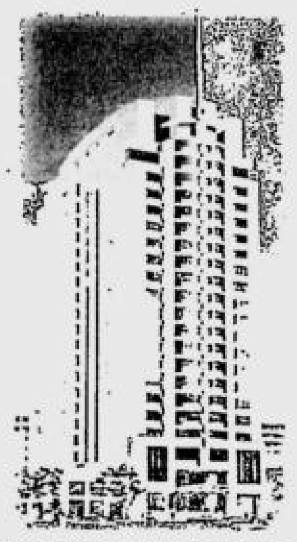

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The local Chinese community is deeply indebted to the entire Filipino nation for the successful passage of this significant legislative measure, and wishes to acknowledge the key personages in the 11th CONGRESS who made this possible, namely –

- Senate President/s Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr., Franklin M. Drilon (principal author of S.B. 1178) and Blas F. Ople;
- Senate Majority Leader, Senator Francisco S. Tatad;
- Senate Minority Leader and Chairman of the Committee on Justice, Senator Renato L. Cayetano and Committee Members, Senators Robert Z. Barbers, Juan Ponce Enrile, Rodolfo G. Biazon and Juan M. Flavier;
- House Speaker/s Feliciano R. Belmonte, Jr., Arnulfo P. Fuentebella and (now Senator) Manuel B. Villar, Jr.;
- House Majority Leader/s Neptali M. Gonzales II, Bellaflor J. Angara-Castillo, Eduardo R. Gullas, (now DTI secretary) Manuel A. Roxas II;
- House Minority Leader Agapito A. Aquino;
- Chairman of the House Committee on Justice, Congressman Pacifico M. Fajardo and Committee Members too numerous to enumerate;
- Congressman Joaquin M. Chipeco, Jr. (principal author of H.B. 12228) and co-authors too numerous to enumerate;

Appreciation and gratitude are likewise due to many equally important persons who had rendered invaluable assistance one way or another, towards the successful passage of said law.

FEDERATION OF FILIPINO-CHINESE CHAMBERS
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June 2001; Manila

Joker turns media-shy

(From page A1)

since Senator-elect Ralph Recto announced that he and several others were pushing for Arroyo to take up the Senate presidency, the erstwhile "darling" of reporters has made himself scarce.

Phone calls to his house in Makati City proved futile, with his aides saying he was out or had just left. Not even the calls of the INQUIRER merited a reply.

Such behavior, deemed totally uncharacteristic of the voluble Arroyo, fueled suspicions that he did not actually have his heart set on the Senate presidency.

But in a phone interview yesterday, Senator-elect Manuel Villar said the move to have Arroyo installed as the chamber's top man was "not a joke."

Villar was reacting to an earlier statement made by Senate President Aquilino Pimentel that Arroyo's supposed interest in the post was a joke, and that he was not intimidated even if Arroyo were serious.

"He's serious," Villar said, although he admitted that Arroyo's decision to aim for the Senate's top post surprised a lot of people.

Villar said it was "no laughing matter" for Arroyo to aim for the Senate presidency, given his experience in legislative work in the House of Representatives.

"I think there is no one more experienced than he" in legislative matters in the Senate despite his neophyte status, Villar said of Arroyo.

"What is seniority? He is now 74 years old and a veteran of nine years in Congress," Villar said.

Trial balloon

Villar acknowledged that in announcing Arroyo's bid for the post this early, he and his colleagues were merely floating a "trial balloon."

Besides, he said, all of those elected to the Senate were deemed "equal" and eligible for the post.

He said that at the end of the day, what was important was that Arroyo would receive more than the 13 required votes.

"I don't laugh at the idea of Joker being Senate president," Villar said.

Recto earlier said the decision to push for Arroyo's candidacy for the Senate presidency was a matter that he, Villar, Senator-elect Francis Pangilinan and Arroyo agreed upon last week.

In a separate phone interview, Recto admitted that committee chairmanships might play a factor in the Senate race.

But Recto said their decision to back Arroyo resulted from the belief that he was the most deserving of the post.

Edsa II

At the House, small parties within the administration-backed People Power Coalition (PPC) said the choice of who would be Speaker should be made in accordance with the ideals of Edsa II.

The party leaders, including former Executive Secretary Renato de Villa (Reporma) and Education Secretary Raul Roco (Aksyon Demokratiko), came out with this stand after a meeting yesterday in Pasig City.

The PPC includes the Liberal Party, Promdi, Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Nacionalista Party and the "progressive bloc" of Lakas.

"We would like to continue the gains of Edsa Dos. We feel that by selecting a Speaker coming from the coalition, we should be able to do that," Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad, an LP member and a candidate for the post, told reporters.

The coalition intends to choose from Abad, incoming Cebu Rep. Raul del Mar, Palawan Rep. Vicente Sandoval (Lakas progressive bloc) and Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla (LDP).

The one chosen is expected to go against Pangasinan Rep. Joe de Venecia.

Del Mar maintained that the coalition was not necessarily an anti-De Venecia movement but a move to come up with fresh leadership, new politics and reforms.

Sandoval told reporters that they expected the coalition to come up with a common candidate by the end of the week.

The group is trying to get the minimum support of 120 House members and the endorsement of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But for Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano, the coalition is a "self-righteous clique" out to sabotage the bid of De Venecia, his candidate.

Albano maintained that the De Venecia camp had the solid support of Lakas, with 87 members. *With a report from Martin P. Marfil*

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Sin wants GMO tests delayed

BY DENNIS A. MALIWANAG
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin has called for a delay in genetically modified organism (GMO) experiments in the country, belying claims made by agro-chemical firms that the technology had the backing of the church.

In a pastoral statement, Sin said, "Genetic engineering is acceptable only if all risks are minimized, otherwise one could easily succumb to temptations of (high) productivity and profit at the expense of the people and the environment."

The bishop's statement echoed the Vatican's latest position on the issue that has sharply divided scientists and researchers all over the world.

Speaking last November before an estimated 50,000 farmers from Italy and elsewhere at a special outdoor mass, Pope John Paul II said using GMOs to increase farm production was "contrary to God's will."

On Sunday Sin said, "As long as foreseeable dangers are not fully identified, studied and avoided, safe alternative procedures should be used. If there are none, testing and development of the technology should be delayed altogether."

The proponents of GMOs in the country had used in their promotional materials an old Vatican statement endorsing genetic engineering to improve the living conditions of farmers.

There is still no consensus among scientists worldwide on the technology's safety.

Farmers said modern biotechnology would simply tighten the grip agro-chemical firms have on agriculture, with GMOs patented to global food and chemical giants.

"While technology merely asks, 'can it be done?' ethics takes us one step farther and asks 'if it can be done, should it be done?'" Sin said in the statement, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER.

With genetic engineering, the natural and conventional processes of improving the traits of living organisms are being abandoned for the still infantile technology.

By manipulating the genetic makeup of an organism, its characteristics could be altered or modified in a process that transcends species boundaries and limits.

Thames Students Speak

A RECENT survey was conducted among students of Thames International Business School on their views on the June 12 celebration.

"Actually there is no Independence Day because poeple don't care. I cannot see national pride like in other countries." JP Borja 17, Business Administration

"It should be a sad day because we are still poor." Cristina Espina 18, Marketing

"With the recent events of EDSA II, the celebration of Philippine Independence should be more meaningful because we have fought for our rights and overthrew a president. And as teenagers, it helped us realize the true meaning of Independence. I see the chaos in Mindanao as a conflict within a nation, though it greatly affects us, I believe in the capabilities of the new government." Michelle Cuartero, Student Council President, 21, Marketing

"There is a reason to celebrate our Independence Day because we should be aware of our history. It is a way to remember our heroes." Jedfrey Tan, 17, Business and IT

"Who knows? With the celebration of Independence Day, the rebels in Mindanao will come to realize the need for the Filipino to unite." Ryan Gabuya, 17, Business and IT

"What Independence? Free from what? We are not free from debts." Tareena Cawad, 19, Marketing

"I hope that our new set of leaders will unite the nation and bring out the best potential of our people." Sam Pine, 17, Marketing

"Independence is all about working together as whole country." Junnese Morisawa, 17, Business Administration

"There is still war in this country. Let's celebrate when there is peace, order, and unity." Alvin Abaño, 17, Business and IT

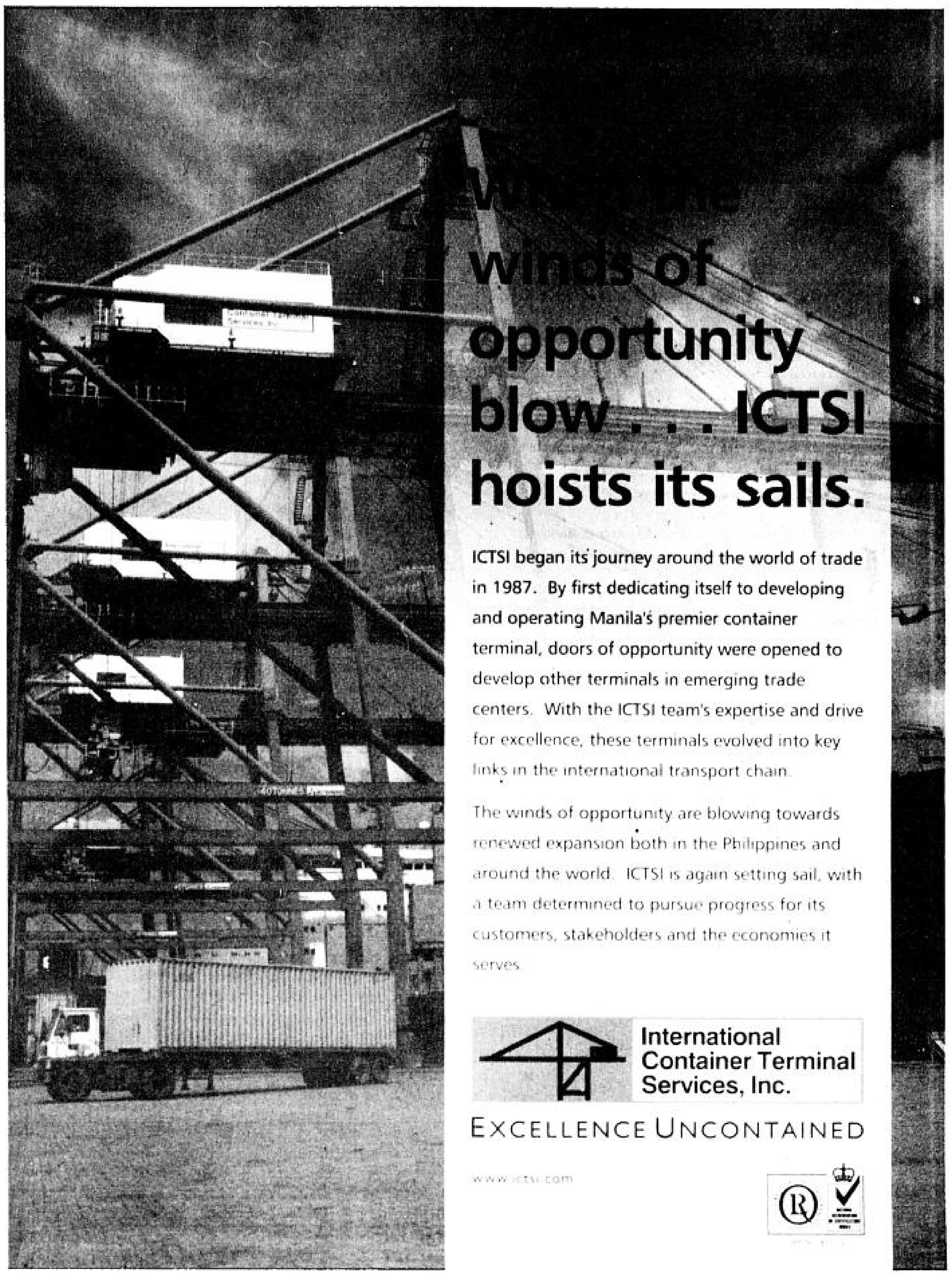
"The Independence Day celebration should be a reminder for the nation to be vigilant in preserving what was won in EDSA II." Von Tan Gana, 22, Marketing

So young, and yet so full of ideals, Thames students participate in various leadership training and values orientation seminars that help develop their true potentials. Moreover, they undergo rigorous training since all courses are validated by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES). They go through the same curriculum and exams as their counterparts in the UK, Australia, and Singapore.

Thames International Business School is a Singapore based college that has helped thousands of Asians graduate with a foreign degree without the usual cost and time constraints. It opened its 9th Asian Center in the country in 1999 through its founder and CEO Vivienne Tan, daughter of taipan Lucio Tan. The school aims to develop its students into becoming leaders with a global perspective and high moral and ethical values

Thames director, Joel Santos (right), with Thames students at Edsa II.

ADV'T



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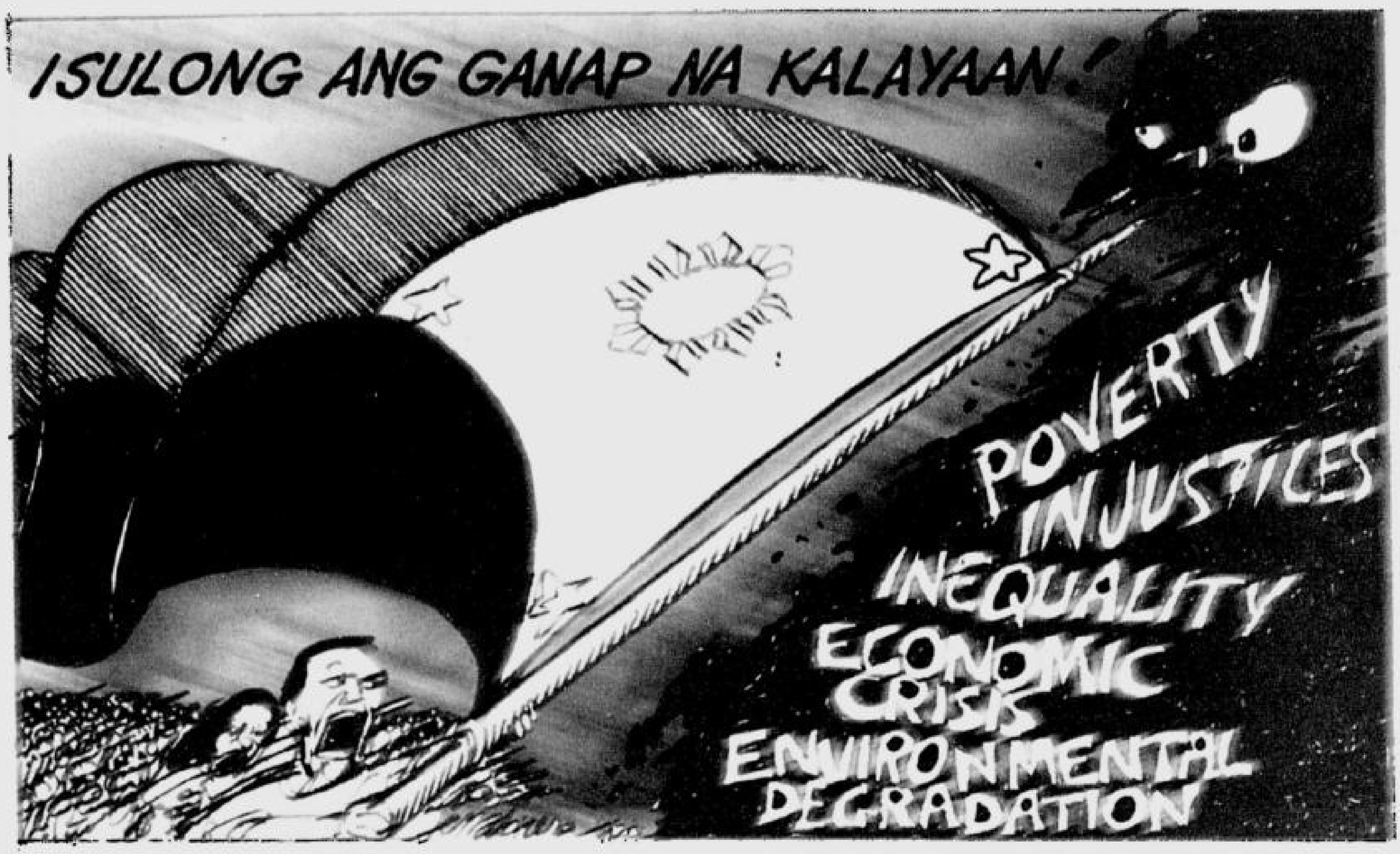

Called to greatness

EDITORIAL

AT A TIME when a gang of hostage-takers defines the international image of the Philippines, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that our experiment in nationhood is itself hostage to circumstance. Even today's official celebration of Independence Day—a simple affair determined in part by the new government's budgetary discipline—is a study in straitened circumstances. There is an almost palpable air of what the philosophers call contingency, a resigned sense that we are in this state of affairs not by choice but by circumstance.

Today is a good day to remind ourselves that our nation was born because our founding fathers chose to heed the call to greatness.

It is true that our sense of nationhood began in victimhood, as an almost involuntary response to a shared experience of often brutal colonialism. In a famous essay published in 1890, Rizal wrote: "A new factor is present which did not exist before. The soul of the nation has been aroused; a common misfortune and a common abasement have succeeded in uniting the people of the Islands."

But if the experience of injustice was the motive power that drove the country's independence movement, it was the hope of "a noble society" that directed it. After centuries of failed insurrections, both large and small, the founding fathers knew that for the revolution to succeed, it must not only be a blow against oppression but a campaign to build a better life for all. Several days after declaring independence, and speaking for the new government, Aguinaldo called on his countrymen to join him in the endeavor. "(T)aking reason as its sole norm of action, justice as its sole end and honest labor as its sole means, it now calls upon and invites all Filipinos...to come together in a perfect union for the purpose of creating a noble society."

That was 103 years ago this month. In the century since, the struggle to create a noble society was often reduced to a more basic contest: keeping the freedom won with so much difficulty in the revolution against Spain. We are all familiar with freedom's story line, and how it has ultimately survived the great upheavals in our short history: the American usurpation, the Japanese occupation, the Marcos dictatorship.

As the example of Edsa I will show, the more basic struggle of regaining lost freedom is a simpler one. Like the prospect of a hanging, it concentrates the public mind wonderfully. There is one side, and there is the other.

As our sometimes sorry experience since Edsa I will prove, however, the higher struggle to build a society worthy of the nation is a more complicated task.

The political turbulence of the last several months—of the last year, if we include the previous administration's all-out war in central Mindanao; of the last two years, if we include deposed President Joseph Estrada's rollercoaster ride through the public opinion polls—can be understood as a test precisely of what free men ought to do with their freedom.

"Many there are who talk of freedom without knowing what it means," Mabini wrote more than 100 years ago. "Many believe that once they have gained freedom they may do what they please, good or bad. This is a great error. One is free only to do good, never to do evil."

Right from the start, with the Marcos burial issue, the Estrada administration signaled that it would exercise this freedom on its own terms; that is, in whichever way it pleased. Perhaps it could not be helped; there are many other Filipinos beside Estrada for whom Philippine history is really nothing more than "weather-weather" politics. His comeuppance at Edsa II, therefore, triggered by the sight of 11 shameless senators subverting both truth and justice, may be best understood as Mabini's sublime revenge. A moral people had had enough.

"Such a people is called to greatness," Aguinaldo declared in 1898, "chosen by Providence to be a sturdy instrument for the advancement of mankind; such a people cannot fail...to take its own place at last, modest, to be sure, but merited, in the great assembly of free nations."

Help save the Bonifacio monument

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TODAY being Independence Day, I would like to bring to the attention of the nation the impending second death of one of our greatest national heroes, Andres Bonifacio. I am referring to the slow, torturous death of the Bonifacio monument which has given its name to Monumento in Caloocan City as a destination for jeepneys, buses and the Light Rail Transit. The monument was done by sculptor Guillermo Tolentino, a truly great National Artist, who must be turning in his grave at the neglect of his masterpiece.

Let me ask you, dear reader: Have you looked at the Bonifacio monument up close? I mean, really close, to savor the features and emotions of the characters there. The most likely answer is no. Thousands of people pass by that monument every day but very few bother to cross the street and look at the sculptures up close.

The reason is that you risk your life to cross the street around the monument to be able to look at the sculptures closely. You're likely to be run over by the jeepneys and buses that try to beat one another around the rotonda. And if you stay there too long, you're liable to have a respiratory ailment because of the pollution being spewed by thousands of motor vehicles.

Besides the pollution and noise of the vehicles and sidewalks hawkers, the monument is surrounded by tacky multistory shopping malls, a smelly wet market (the government should not have allowed them to be constructed there) and a jeepney terminal.

The Metro Rail Transit will be extended from North Edsa in Quezon City to connect to the LRT terminal at Monumento. There are also plans to extend the LRT to Valenzuela and beyond. I suppose the elevated rail lines would go around the monument. Bonifacio and his fellow Katipuneros would be imprisoned by the steel and concrete monstrosities. The monument by a great National Artist, a national treasure, would be hidden from view.

Worse, acid rain from the polluted air is eating into the copper of the sculptures.

The artist Malang and others have suggested that the monument be relocated to save it. I agree. The monument is now out of place at its present site.

It was a good site originally. The monument welcomed the traveler from the provinces to the metropolis. From afar on MacArthur Highway, you see its tall obelisk with the angel on top reaching up to the sky. When the traveler sees it, he knows that his trip is almost over.

The area around the rotonda was flat and clear of buildings. It was wide-open space. The monument should be seen in middle of a wide-open space. The national and the Caloocan City governments should have kept it that way. But now the monument is crowded from all sides by concrete.

Besides, MacArthur Highway is no longer the gateway to Metro Manila. The gateway is now the North Diversion Road. The monument's location is not the site of the Cry of Balintawak either. There is another Bonifacio statue at the actual site.

But where to relocate the Bonifacio monument? Malang suggested the Luneta, at the park across Roxas Boulevard from the Rizal monument. He suggested the area between the two tamaraws near the steps, facing Jose Rizal.

I suggest that it be placed in the middle of that park, equidistant from the Rizal monument and the Quirino Grandstand, with Rizal and Bonifacio facing each other.

That is a good place. The obelisk would be visible from the sea and from various parts of Manila and serve as a landmark to guide people, in much the same way that the obelisk of the Washigton Monument guides tourists in Washington, D.C. and the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Besides, since Bonifacio is from Tondo, Manila, shouldn't his statue be in Manila?

The whole monument is best seen from a distance, and then you have to move up close to see the genius of Tolentino. The Katipuneros, the men, women and children around Bonifacio, look alive. The details are exquisite. At the Luneta, the people can move up close to see these details and appreciate Tolentino's masterpiece. It is a sculpture that ranks with the best in the world. It is a work of art that we can truly be proud of.

It is ironic that most of the beautiful monuments in Manila were done by foreigners—Spanish, American and Mexican. Is it true that even the Rizal monument was done by an American? But the beautiful Bonifacio monument was done by a Filipino. At the Luneta, more Filipinos and tourists will be able to appreciate it.

But can the monument be dismantled and relocated?

Why not? Bigger monuments have been relocated. A whole group of temples in Egypt that would have been submerged by the lake of Aswan Dam was transferred to higher ground. Italians are experts at this job, so let's ask the Italian government to send us experts to help us.

Malang asked Filipino sculptor Jose Mendoza (who made the big sculptures in Makati like Gabriela Silang, Lapu-Lapu and the Katipunero, as well as the two tamaraws at the Luneta) if the Bonifacio monument can be transferred. He replied that it would be difficult, but it can be done.

If the National Commission for Culture and the Arts truly loves the arts and the National Artists (not merely give undeserving ones the title), it would make the Save the Bonifacio Monument Project a priority. Instead of tearing down old buildings and wiping out parks like Mehan Garden, Mayor Lito Atienza should help his fellow Manileño. Malang has already volunteered his help.

Sense of country, too

(*Conclusion*)

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

YOU are very right about your assessment regarding how things are not what they seem here in America. Even the best and brightest who get to come here realize almost immediately how difficult it is to start over. Qualifications in the Philippines are not transferable here. I've seen lots of professionals, including some doctors and lawyers, work their butts off delivering pizza and flopping burgers. You can't come here thinking you'll get a nice-paying office job. Those who come here on tourist visas are in for a worse time since there are now safeguards that make it difficult for them to find employment, even temporary ones.

* * *

Since I started reading your column a year back, I found the right "spokesperson" for people like me who share with you the same ideals and perspective in life. With the exception of your last article, "Sense of country," I am a naturalized citizen of the United States. I can't describe the feeling—whether it was relief, sadness, joy or hope—when I raised my right hand and swore loyalty to this adopted land of mine. But one thing I was sure of during that time, and that was that I had sworn allegiance to a country that would give me a chance to live my life to the fullest. When I say fullest, I don't mean living in a world surrounded by caviar or expensive cars but having the freedom to develop to my fullest potential. This land has given me that.

As a Filipino, I consider myself more as a refugee from the oppression made by the selfish greedy elite of that society than just a mere economic refugee. Life is short, Mr. De Quiros, and I don't see the Philippines changing during the course of my entire life. Yes we all have to make sacrifices but do the rich do their part? I may sound too materialistic to you but I would like to ask the same question of the few families who control that country's economy: when will they give back to the Filipino people? I would rather die in the arms of a caring surrogate mother than in the arms of a neglectful biological mother. (Frederick Villamena, Ph.D.)

* * *

I am now residing here in Jersey City and I know every *kababayan* dreams of retiring in our beloved Philippines. The reason a lot of Pinoys are having second thoughts is the corruption we have in our country. The Marcoses were big-time crooks and they were able to get away with it. The Estradas are big-time plunderers and they are getting away with it. I was an activist before and fought for the rights of the *masa*, but what happened? *Lalong dumami ang* corruption *at maraming tao ang naghihirap*. Where can you find a rapist in prison getting re-elected?

Change should start with our leaders: they should set themselves up as good examples to the citizens. Why should Filipinos go back to their beloved Pinas when there is no system in government? When you see kidnapping, pollution, street children and poverty all around? I love my country and I am going back home when I retire. Hopefully *may pagbabago na*, or am I expecting a miracle? (Judith Laput)

* * *

I love my country very much and would like to see it prosper. I am one of those who have found greener pastures abroad but would like to go back some day. I just wonder why foreign governments/countries can employ Filipinos productively while ours can't. I have worked in four different countries over two years. Each time I see how their system works, I wonder why they are able to do it and we can't. Of course, not all the systems are good. My hope is that when Filipinos who work abroad decide to go back home, they will be bringing new ideas with them. I really want to see our country move forward. (Mike B)

* * *

I completely agree with your column. It's a shame, really, and it's at the very core of everything that's wrong with the Philippines. Of course, it's funny that I should be saying this. I'm writing you from my office here in New York. I've been here for close to three years now after pursuing post-grad studies. I'm very far away from the Bangko Sentral where I was based as a Businessworld reporter. Farther still from UP and the Ateneo where I studied, grew up and rode the jeepney.

When I first left, I said I was certain to be back after a year. Unlike the "others," I wasn't about to bail. It was my dream to return to the Bangko Sentral to be on the other side of the reporter's fence. Believe it or not, there are actually more than a few stupid idealists like myself in this town.

But how fast and far things have fallen! To name a few: the hopelessness Joseph Estrada's reign repeatedly brought; the massively depressing implications of "Edsa III"; the terror of the Abu Sayyaf; Dacer's murder by cops; and carnappers lurking in mall parking lots and chasing victims along C5.

It's been close to a year since I graduated and here's one thing I'm certain of: I will **not** be back in a year. It pains me to be away but all that is wrong with the Philippines help to numb it. I still want to be back someday—yes, I'm still idealistic, albeit, more pragmatic. I'd hate to be a green card holder by 2007. Miriam Santiago, shame on her, can have it. (Jay Tirona)

* * *

You state that people who have chosen to stay in a country will therefore try their best to improve that country. That is certainly a possible outcome, but it is only one of the options, as Albert Hirschman pointed out in his seminal essay "Exit, Voice and Loyalty." The option you describe is what Hirschman calls "voice." Other examples are parents whose children are in crummy schools mobilizing to demand improvements (as has happened in several school districts in the US). But perhaps more effective is "exit." For instance, if you do not like the service at X store, you simply walk out and bring your business somewhere else. If you do not like Municipality Y, you move to Municipality Z. Why should there be a stigma attached to leaving one's country of origin? As Edmund Burke once wrote, "For us to love our country, our country must be lovely." Similarly, at what point does a battered spouse say "enough" and get out of the relationship? (Henry Ma)

KL a clean and green city

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

Kuala Lumpur—In yesterday's column, I wrote about talk going around here that President Macapagal will make a state visit to Malaysia before September, possibly her first since assuming power last January and certainly the first to an Asean country. The Pinoys here are quite excited about this possibility; in fact the Philippine Embassy, led by Ambassador Chito Brilliantes, is sort of holding back on spending for today's Independence Day celebration, in anticipation of a big reception if and when GMA comes. Today's celebration, which was kicked off by a bazaar put up by the 40,000 strong Filipino community last Sunday following the 9 a.m. Filipino Mass, will have a simple *salu-salo* tonight at the embassy and some art exhibits featuring local Pinoy talents. But Brilliantes hopes to make the visit of President Macapagal a grand affair with the enthusiastic support of the Pinoy community.

* * *

Ms Macapagal's visit will certainly warm relations with KL, after going through a lot of turbulence over the decades, including a near-break-up at one point. I have said that a GMA visit before September would indicate the Philippines' desire to improve and strengthen relations with KL, particularly since Malaysia has made efforts to broker peace with the MILF. A round of talks with the MILF is scheduled in a month's time here after the peace negotiations resume in Tripoli on June 20. Malaysia is obviously trying to take the lead in stabilizing the region, especially after Indonesia, the traditional leader, became embroiled in serious problems of its own.

Another indication of the Philippine courtship of KL's support is that Manila sent two roving ambassadors to the Malaysian capital soon after Ms Macapagal assumed office: former Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo and the former Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Paul Dominguez. Other regions got visits only from one roving ambassador, e.g., former Ambassador Raul Rabe to the Americas and Ambassador Cesar Bautista to Europe. In the world of diplomacy, little details like this mean a lot.

* * *

I've heard some allegations that the Malaysians at times dress up their economic figures a little bit to show vigorous recovery from the Asian financial crisis. One of the hardest-hit by the crisis, Malaysia is not yet over the hump entirely. For instance, the new government center, Putra Jaya, that was begun by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad before the crisis hit, is only half finished. But it is an indication of the doggedness of "Dr. M" as he is called by his people, that Mahathir has already transferred his official residence and office to Putra Jaya, about 40 kilometer from KL. He is the only official residing and holding office there.

Another ambitious project, the Multi-Media Super-Corridor otherwise known as Cyber Jaya, an industrial zone designed to have state-of-the-art telecommunications and information technology infrastructure, to which Dr. M hopes to entice the leading computer and software designers, is also not finished yet. It has been temporarily delayed, but plans have not been abandoned.

* * *

We drove to Malacca, the old Portuguese seaport that was later held by the Dutch and then briefly by the English, for a whole day of sightseeing last Saturday, and antique dealers in the famous Jonker Street complained that the tourists have not come back in force after the crisis. The antique business in Malacca remains slow.

The plus side is that Malaysia is bracing for a new surge of tourist arrivals from the Arab countries, where it is now summer and time for wealthy Arabs to go abroad. Malaysia being a very orthodox Muslim country, it is now aiming to rate high in Arab priority. There's now a big rush here to look for chefs who can cook lamb and kebab. Moreover, half of Malaysia's nine to ten million annual tourists are Singaporeans who drive the two hours to Johore Baru or the three to four hours to KL to shop at the malls where goods are far cheaper than in Singapore.

* * *

The signs of economic recovery and new prosperity are all over the place, powered largely by the dogged vision of Mahathir, who at the height of the financial crisis resorted to currency controls, defying the World Bank and the IMF, and his followers among the aggressive Malaysian businessmen. The ringgit has now stabilized against the dollar. Modern downtown KL, which is dominated by the world's tallest building, the gleaming stainless steel and glass twin towers of the magnificent, 88-story Petronas Building, is undergoing a building boom, with all the hotel chains outdoing one another in elegance. Malls and sidewalk cafés have sprouted all over the place, signs of prosperity slowly seeping down to the native Malays and not just the Chinese. Where before the streets were dominated by the locally made Proton Wira, various foreign made fancy cars are everywhere.

In terms of infrastructure, Malaysia is impressive. The KL international airport, which was finished during the Asian crisis, is one of Asia's three best (the two others being Hong Kong's and Singapore's). The superb highways of Malaysia, completed in most parts, can compare with the world's best.

* * *

KL is a clean, beautiful city: no *basura* even in the oldest parts of town, and none of the big city's traffic hassles, and few beggars on the streets. They have an efficient light railway transit in many parts, and others are being finished. KL is a well-planned city where old colonial structures and homes are well-preserved. The Malaysian capital looks well-preserved, in fact, and has almost none of the seediness that characterizes Metro Manila in many parts. KL is also so green because of all the trees in the parks and sidewalks; not for nothing is KL called the "Garden City" of Asia. One cannot just cut trees anywhere, and if one obtains a permit to cut, one has to plant three trees in its place. Even the highways outside of KL are so green, with both sides planted to palm trees that produce the palm oil that is Malaysia's No. 1 export now. The mountains are also covered with trees, making it a pleasure to drive out of town.

The lighting in KL at night is something else. While most cities of Asia such as Makati light up for Christmas, in KL it's Christmas the whole year round with its downtown all aglow with myriad lights. *Palibhasa marami silang langis* as well as natural gas. By the way, the Petronas Building is powered entirely by natural gas, as are many vehicles in Malaysia. (By next year, however, the Philippines will join the natural gas club, as Malampaya in Palawan starts producing commercially.)

China, US boost economic relations

NEWS ANALYSIS

Cindy Sui

BEIJING—China and the United States' agreement on Beijing's entry to the WTO indicates that both are eager to get economic relations back on track even as they disagree on other fronts, analysts said.

The deal also shows that Beijing is eager to join the trade body as soon as possible due to a slowing economy and fears any more spats with the new Bush administration might jeopardize its 15-year efforts to enter the World Trade Organization, analysts said.

The two countries announced Saturday that they had reached agreement on the final issues involving China's WTO obligations, which mainly involve the level of subsidies China would be allowed to give its agriculture sector after entry. China had wanted to be considered a developing country, which would entitle it to agricultural subsidies of up to 10 percent, but the United States refused.

The deal, details of which were not released, resurrects hopes China can join the WTO this year.

What brought about the surprise consensus, analysts said, was that both sides realized they had too much at stake if they allowed recent spats on the military and strategic fronts to affect achievements they have made over the years on the economic front.

"The support base of the Republican Party is big business. Bush cannot ignore the fact that big business in the US wants to enter China," said Lau Siu-kai, a political analyst at Hong Kong's Chinese University.

Despite a string of provocative actions taken by Bush toward China, his China policy appears to be two-fold, Lau said. "In the military side, it's a containment policy to apply external pressure on China to force China to make more concessions on political reform and human rights," Lau said. "On the economic front, it wants to continue to have economic engagement with China so as to exploit the expanding Chinese market...and at the same time maintain the support of the American business community for the Republican Party."

Since taking office, Bush has angered China by selling a package of advanced weapons to Taiwan, allowing Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian to make a high-profile visit to the United States, declaring its intentions to develop a missile defense shield and receiving the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama in the White House. But in the economic arena, Bush seems quite willing to work with China.

On Friday, Bush formally asked Congress to renew China's low-tariff trade privileges with the United States. "Fair trade is essential not only to improving living standards for Americans but also for a strong and productive relationship with China," he said in a statement.

From China's perspective, entering the WTO has become a more urgent matter, and analysts said it is likely that China made more compromises than the United States in the deal. "They don't know what will be the mood of Congress next year," said Jean-Pierre Cabestan, director of the Hong Kong-based French Center for Research on Contemporary China.

The April 1 collision between a US spy plane and Chinese fighter and the dispute following it have shown both sides the dangers such incidents can have on bilateral relations, Cabestan said.

China is also eager to attract foreign investment with WTO entry as it faces a slowdown in foreign investment and economic growth. In a recent speech to a Beijing university, Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji candidly revealed that China needed to have a friendly relationship with the United States, saying China needs US investments and technology. In the same speech, Zhu admitted that a sluggish local economy has forced his government to slow down a series of important reforms

With Chinese exports to the United States reaching about $100 billion last year, China cannot afford to let relations with Washington reach a point where it would harm economic cooperation, analysts said.

The two countries showed another sign of willingness to improve ties in the past weeks by reaching an agreement on the dismantling and return of the US spy plane, which has stranded in southern China after it was forced to make an emergency landing following the collision. *AFP*

NCCA update (II)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bumbi L. Harper

TO ENLIGHTEN you further about the composition of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, let me tell you that aside from those 22 committees forming four sub-commissions, there are 14 commissioners. Then you've got the bureaucracy, but that's another matter altogether.

Of course, all the members of committees serve on a voluntary basis and get paid a token P300 or so per meeting once a month if they attend them. The chair gets the princely sum of P5,000 a month. I don't know the salaries of the rest but being a government agency, I presume it can't be anything stupendous. You have to admit that there are just too many people and sooner or later someone's going to feel slighted or wronged or whatever and there's going to be a lot of intrigues and backbiting.

In 1993 the NCCA was able to acquire its own building with the help of Senators Ople, Gonzales and Shahani. Its first chair, National Artist Leandro Locsin, passed away in 1994, leaving the position vacant until December 1996 when Jaime Laya was elected chair. He was at the time the sole nominee for the position. Having served minister of education, budget secretary, governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and, most important, first administrator of the Intramuros Administration that saw the restoration of the walls (since then damaged by the present administrator's policy, with no relief in sight by the looks of it) and the establishment of the San Luis/Casa Manila Complex, Laya appeared to be an ideal choice. Whether he was equally well liked is entirely beside the point unless we're running a popularity contest in which case Dolphy should be in the running for NCCA chair.

Let me point out some highlights before we go into certain controversies that have since arisen with the election for chair this month. There were 476 grant applications in the year 2000 and 245 projects were approved. A total of 122 were completed and the rest are ongoing. If you're like me, you're probably wondering why you haven't heard of them although there's the latest National Artists Award, but you might not have connected it with the NCCA. The way I see it, the agency better get itself some PR outfit and more high-profile projects. I wouldn't mind seeing it, for instance, support a competition for cinema scripts and underwrite the production of the winning entries.

Special projects like Sambayan and the Dayaw Festivals were no doubt excellent but the idea of "providing answers to the question, 'What does it mean to be Filipino?' as a rationale obviously didn't set off any fireworks in the public's mind. (We're all tired of that one and just want to have fun.) There were also several publications on culture and the arts such as Bulawan, a journal, and some monographs. I have my doubts as to how many people these publications reach.

Aside from the National Artists Award, the NCCA also has the Gawad Manlilikha ng Bayan Award which is some kind of recognition and support of native craftsmen. Financial support for indigenous festivals has also been set up. An Artist-in-Residency Program sponsors the temporary residence of a nationally recognized artist in a regional university or college and there's a project to establish a National Gallery of Art, putting together all the government collections. (Frankly, if I hadn't read the NCCA brochure I wouldn't have known half of it.)

There probably wouldn't be any controversies associated with the NCCA if it weren't for something called the National Endowment Fund which fuels grants for projects of individuals and institutions. The way I understand it, at one point members of committees could be both proponents and recipients of grants. This, of course, gave them an unfair advantage.

Under the administration of Laya, the policy has been changed (I think the Board of Commissioners is the culprit now) and the deadlines for grant applications have been reduced to three annually. Many artists used to protest against the amount of paper work involved and being required to estimate how many people would benefit from the project, not monetarily but educationally, for instance. Unless it's a textbook or an educational film targeting a specific market, how can anyone tell whether someone benefited from the restoration of a painting, for instance? What if I don't like paintings or that specific style? (I've been informed applications have been simplified.)

Another major change during Laya's administration was the reengineering of the secretariat headed by Rio Almario. Now it appears that there are also people who don't like Almario's style, even if what we should really ask is whether under Almario the secretariat is more effective or efficient and more focused. But being basically personality oriented, we don't bother with details of the kind.

I'm not going to bother telling you that the NCCA has initiated the "conduct of cultural literacy surveys to assess the level of cultural awareness and literacy among sixth grade and fourth year high school students" in order to come up with a questionnaire to determine the cultural items that Filipino students should know. The NCCA is a government agency after all and the government likes doing stuff like that. It just sounds dull as dust. What the public could hope for though is that politics is kept out of this month's election of the NCCA chair and the commissioners will be allowed to elect whoever they really prefer as chair, whether it is former Sen. Leticia Shahani or Jaime Laya.

Dark muse

YOUNGBLOOD

Mario C.

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I NEVER really understood what Charles Dickens meant by "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." In my typically male and narrow mind, it was either one or the other—black or white, and no gray areas. Until a few months ago. Until she came to my life.

The whole Philippines seemed to be in uproar at that time. Trouble was brewing. The country was divided. Politics seemed to overwhelm everybody. It was January and the government was about to collapse. You could feel it in the thick, tense air and in the plastic, rancid smile of the people around you who were trying to mask their fear with a false calmness.

Strangely, I was never more at peace with myself than during those turbulent times. I met, during my brief writing stint in Manila, perhaps, the love of my life.

She was beautiful and charming and very smart. She didn't seduce me with her looks. No, she was too sly for that. She reeled me in, slowly and surely by her wit and brains. There have been women in my life before but she's different, refreshing and outrageous.

I knew she was married, of course. I knew the score. I knew where I stood but, as we all know, knowing and doing are two different things. I told myself that I was in it just for the fun of it, that I needed a fling to welcome the new year, that I couldn't deny myself one of life's most important experiences: once, just once, to fall for the wrong kind of girl, so hard, so fast.

So I did fall—fast and hard. An irritating voice inside nagged me but I dismissed it as the confused whispers of someone who had a liberal education and a semi-puritanical upbringing.

I began to live for love and feasted on our times together. Pride be damned, I didn't care anymore. What other people said, what my colleagues said, what the rest of the world thought didn't matter at all. They could all fly away to where the sun doesn't shine, for all I cared. Manila was big but despite its size, people always talk. As cosmopolitan as Manila was, it was still as parochial and provincial as the boondocks where tongues wagged and news spread like wildfire.

I didn't give a hoot about what they were talking about. I was beginning to establish my career in journalism—in Manila, no less. I was in love for the first time with the woman of my dreams. I couldn't ask for anything more. Everything I needed to be happy was right within my grasp. Life was good.

Still when I was with her, I couldn't shake off my desperation, for at the back of my mind I knew it wouldn't last long. This kind of thing never lasted. I couldn't escape the anguish, because I knew I deserved better but I couldn't get her out of my head. She was like a permanent fixture inside my brain. I couldn't hide from the monsters called jealousy and insecurity because for all my brilliance, I knew she wasn't going to leave him for me. But in the end, as in most affairs, the last stage was resigned acceptance.

I began to settle for whatever time of the day she was willing to give me, for whatever little feelings she could spare. After all, she had a husband who was as hungry for her attention as I was. There was a devil inside me who wanted reassurance. I was never good at being second place and while I was the one who loved and held her, I couldn't even begin to think that it was another man she would come home to.

Then the president fell from power, and a new one came along. Out with the old, in with new. And I didn't mean politics. I began to have sense that she wasn't happy with me. She was growing restless.

But then all of Manila and the whole Philippines were restless at the time.

One day betrayal swung its tail right smack on the face. She couldn't take it anymore. She couldn't take the burden, the jealousy, the insecurity, the anger. I had driven her away with my intense need for her.

She left me a note one morning as I lay sleeping. Three sentences long. I can't even remember what she had written because the words got blurred.

This was not the first time that a woman left me. The first time, I was eight years old. I watched my mother walk away, without looking back at a husband who, she reckoned, was not good enough for her, and a child who tried his mightiest best to keep her from going to the United States.

I don't know what hurt more.

I woke up to a changed world, a changed man. I had gone to Manila with the hopes of writing about a new president who would rebuild a wasted country. I left Manila a broken man. There in the big city I left the woman, my soul, my life.

After that bittersweet interlude, I couldn't write anymore. Suddenly, there were no words coming out of my mind. I couldn't comment on how lost our political system was, when I myself was completely and utterly devoid of direction. I had lost my edge. I had lost my sanity. I had lost myself.

It wasn't long after I realized that I wasn't the first, nor would I be the last, broken-hearted man. Having lost my "dark muse" (as I call her now); I began to look for substitutes, if only to restore my once virile hormones, but that woman ruined me for all other women.

I suppose it happens to the best of us. It just seemed funny when you think about it, though. The mother who gave birth to me, the woman who supposedly bonded with me when I first touched her hand, threw me away like cheap disposable diaper to chase her stupid dream. The one woman I was ready to pledge my everything discarded me for a vow she took five years earlier. Now, I'm supposed to feel secure because the fate of our country is in the hands of a woman whose greatest edge is that she had the fortune (or misfortune) of having a former president for her father.

Well, I'm biased. Who wouldn't be? After all, the three of them were named Gloria.

Mario C., 28, is a writer based in Mindanao.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

THEY SAID

People's decision

"We must accept the decision of the people, but we must convince them that the elections were clean and honest."

—Sen. Gringo Honasan, at the proclamation of winning senatorial candidates

One solution

"This is the only solution. No ransom, no negotiation. Just crush them."

—Libyan Ambassador Salem Adam, expressing support for the administration's efforts to crush the Abu Sayyaf

Lawlessness

"There is no invasion. Neither is there rebellion. What we have in Basilan is plain lawlessness."

—Integrated Bar of the Philippines president Arthur Lim, opposing the proposal to declare martial law

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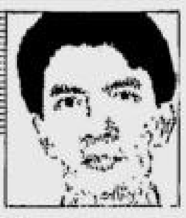
Ebai and Lag-an

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

LIFE'S delights are often the most elusive, which is the case with some of Baguio's best pastries. Here's how you find them:

Drive up Leonard Wood Drive toward St. Joseph's Church (yes, yes, where Aga got married), past Teacher's Camp, past the bridge until you see a sign that reads, "Ebai's Café and Pastries." You still have to drive up a few more meters to find another sign, "Hotel Tepeyac." If you're walking, take a deep breath, and if you're driving, shift to low gear to negotiate the rather steep road that finally takes you to the hotel, a cozy renovated hideaway run by Jimmy and Lucia Catanes. That's where you'll find the wickedly delicious pastries. Try the chocolate, and the carrot cakes. If you're not into cakes, you can get other food at Lag-an's Grill, which has something for everyone, including good vegetarian dishes.

Jimmy and Lucia are a young, energetic couple with two children: yes, you guessed it, a daughter named Ebai and a son, Lag-an, the two children named after Jimmy's grandparents. The Catanes family represents a new generation of Filipinos searching for nationhood, while preserving one's ethnic identity.

Only a few years ago, there were fears that the Cordillera groups would disappear, completely absorbed into the Ilokano mainstream. "Igorot" had become a pejorative term with connotations of "primitive" and "uneducated."

Times have changed. Today there seems to be a renewed ethnic pride reflected, for example, by an interest in reviving the rich local traditions of the Cordillera, including the use of local names for children.

I can't resist mentioning the Cordillera's indefatigable politico, Mauricio Domogan, who has just been elected mayor. Domogan is known for his passionate speeches, made all the more fiery when he shifts to a style called *day-eng*, a kind of chanting oratory popular in the Cordillera. Domogan is even more famous, or notorious, for showing up at the Baguio Country Club in a *bahag* or G-string, worn properly (which means "improperly" for prudes).

All these developments are not accidental. The revival of local cultures is part of a global trend. Everywhere, indigenous groups are reasserting themselves, often after decades of oppression by outside groups. Ironically, the very educational system that sought to "civilize" the natives also produced new generations of highly critical professionals who now seek a return to their roots.

But there's more to all this than a revival of indigenous cultures. Especially for a young country like the Philippines, the key to nationhood may actually be ethnic diversity. Ethnicity—whether being Bontoc or Ilokano—provides a core identity around which nationhood can develop.

I see this happening in Baguio, as the city becomes more and more of a melting pot. There are the Cordillera groups: to name a few, the Ibaloi (the original inhabitants of Baguio), Kankanay, Bontoc, Kalinga, Ifugao. Then there are the migrants from all over Luzon—Ilokano, Kapampangan, Tagalog, Bikolanos—and from the Visayas and Mindanao. There is even a community now of Muslim traders, again with a variety of ethnicities represented, mainly Tausug and Maranao.

There has been relative peace among the different groups. Sure, the different ethnic groups still carry many of the old tensions and stereotyping about each other but this does not break out into hostile encounters. Society's civil processes seem to provide an outlet for whatever tensions might develop. For example, I am told that during the last election there was an "Ilokano" and "Igorot" vote. I think that's fine: better that these differences are fought out in the polls, rather than through guns.

It is not surprising that Baguio tends to attract non-conformists—artists, for example. The weather may be temperate, but the city is in fact a cultural greenhouse, allowing for a diversity of ethnicities. The ethnic pride we see there is different from the regionalism that has plagued the Philippines for so long. Regionalism is often based on a fear of difference and a perception that outsiders are threats. Ethnic pride is self-assured, so much so that people are ready to share one's culture with others, and to learn from other people.

The ethnic pride I see in many péople of the Cordillera celebrates the past, but in a way where traditions serve the future. We see that in the names that link children to their great grandparents. We see this link, too, in the revival of certain traditions, as in the case of Lucia and Jimmy's wedding, when elders from their villages came down to officiate, followed by a seclusion period of the new couple for 30 days.

I am aware of the way ethnic pride can become trivialized, reduced to wearing "native" clothes and trinkets and playing ethno-rock tapes. There is much more, certainly, to ethnic pride. That includes a recognition of history's injustices and the way ethnic and religious differences were used to plunder and to oppress. The nationhood we seek must include reparations for the sins of our ancestors, and ensuring that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past. We live in exciting times, as we carve a future when names like Ebai and Lag-an will be as Filipino as Lucia and Jimmy, as Ruhai and Abdullah.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.org

Forgiveness and retributive justice

LETTERS

IT is well and good to ask forgiveness for neglecting more than 90 percent of the Filipino people. But is this all that will be done to address the ugly and dehumanizing poverty that stared us in the face at Edsa III? The Philippines is really a poor country economically, and one wonders how some families can lead scandalous and grandiose lifestyles, unmindful of the squalor in which the rest of the Filipinos live.

But it is not enough simply to ask forgiveness for a wrong done. There has to be retributive justice. In this case, retribution for the wrong done must be the alleviation of poverty.

In concrete terms, alleviating poverty has to do primarily with giving everyone a chance to earn, work and receive a living wage. Such a wage must not only be enough to support an average family, but it must be a living wage as defined by the Magisterium of the Catholic Church through Pope Leo XIII's landmark social encyclical "Rerum Novarum": "a wage that must be enough to support the wage earner in reasonable and frugal comfort." Pope John Paul II in his encyclical "Centesimus Annus" followed this up by stressing that "society and the state must ensure wage levels adequate for the maintenance of the worker and his family, including a certain amount for savings."

Ironically, in the Philippines, a predominantly Catholic country, there is no just wage for the lowly worker. There is only starvation wage.

Wages must be adjusted upwards and some business taxes have to be cancelled or trimmed to neutralize the reluctance of business to make wage adjustments. Rationalized taxation and collection efficiency supportive of the national goal to bring in more investors and generate more jobs must supplant the present system even as the bloated government bureaucracy is trimmed.

To complement these efforts, the government should seek a condonation of its foreign debts, especially since such debts were incurred on account of the plunder of treasury by a previous dictator. There is sufficient moral justification for this kind of move. Pope John Paul II considers foreign debt as "counter-productive" inasmuch as debtor nations are forced to export the capital needed for their development. The integrity of this nation as a creditworthy sovereign debtor must be balanced by the need to survive. Money saved from condoned foreign debts as well as money from recovered loot and unexplained wealth must be used for development projects to replace taxes that will be scrapped.

Finally, any existing legislation that is oppressive to the Filipino poor must be reviewed and repealed. An example of this is the globalization accord, which puts the Filipino at a great disadvantage because the economic conditions in his country are not the same as those in its trading partners.

Indeed, radical changes must be undertaken to defuse the powder keg caused by inequity in our society.—**EMMA REMO ROXAS, 8 Kristina Homes, Lincoln Ave., Bankers Vill., Antipolo City**

A unique advocacy

CONGRATULATIONS for initiating a unique environmental advocacy and for encouraging everyone to be actively involved in this recycling scheme, dubbed as "New Paper" drive, in time for the World Environment Day celebration and the observance of June as Philippine Environment Month.

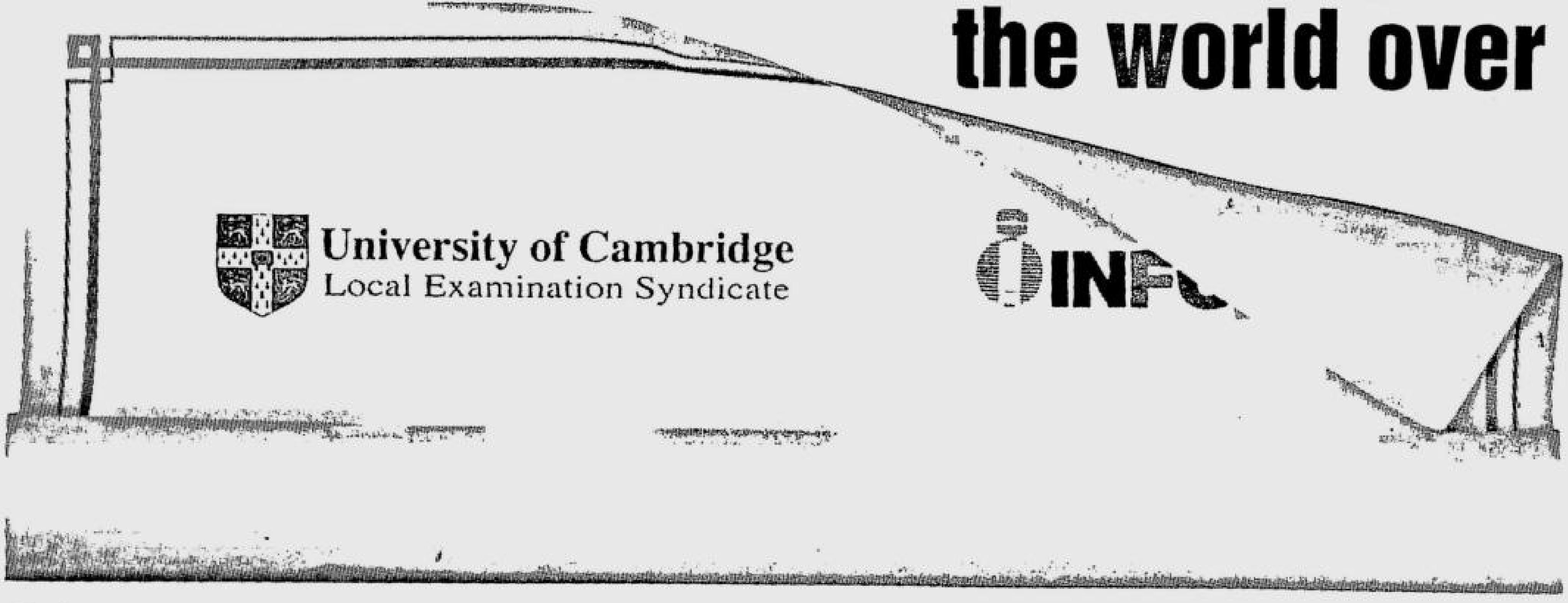
This move is a manifestation of the INQUIRER support for our government's fight against garbage and pollution complementing the Solid Waste Management Act the first bill signed into law by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

We at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) acknowledge the fact that this drive is a timely effort for all of us to gradually start a clear direction in saving our environment. Recycling newspapers works more to our advantage inasmuch as we not only reduce our need for forest products but also reduce production costs.

May this noteworthy recycling move by an ecologically conscious paper such as yours inspire other newspapers to pursue this thrust.

By September 2001 when this "New Paper" drive is expected to end, the INQUIRER would have realized how it is to be known as the country's "Environmentalist Newspaper."

I wish you all the best in a worthy cause.—**HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ, secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**



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Massive Texas flood claims 5 lives

HOUSTON, Texas—Massive flooding triggered by tropical storm Allison has claimed at least 15 lives in the Houston area and caused an estimated $1 billion in damage, city officials said late Sunday.

"These were mostly drownings," Corey Ray a spokesperson for the mayor's office said.

However, at least two people have died of electrocution after coming into contact with downed power lines, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

In addition, an estimated 10,000 homes and other buildings have been damaged by floodwaters that affected Houston and 28 surrounding counties, the officials said.

No serious injuries were reported, but Ray said authorities were urging residents to keep away from standing water that could hide sharp objects and venomous snakes.

Allison, which moved in on Friday, dumped 66 cm of rain on the region in just 24 hours. "As a result, rivers and bayous spilled over their banks, flooding roads and triggering power outages," said Ray.

Service at several hospitals in the giant Texas Medical Center were disrupted, and employees, aided by city officials, had to run pumps all day to gain access to flooded basements. *AFP*

Bush to boost research to curb global warming

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush yesterday mapped out steps to boost research and development on global warming, hoping to defuse criticism that could sour his first presidential trip to Europe.

A senior White House official said Bush, who left yesterday night for Spain, would make no commitments on reducing emissions of gases thought to cause global warming, other than stating his intention to try.

The president will also visit Belgium, Sweden, Poland and Slovenia on his six-day trip across the Atlantic, that includes a US-European Union summit in Gothenburg, Sweden.

In addition to their differences with the United States about climate change, European leaders have also expressed concerns about Bush's plan to forgo the 1972 Anti-ballistic Missile Treaty to build a missile defense system, fearing it could touch off a costly new arms race.

European leaders were outraged by Bush's rejection of the 1997 Kyoto treaty, which requires industrial nations to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that many scientists blame for global warming.

Aides said in his speech yesterday Bush would stress how seriously he views the problem of climate change and pledge to work with other countries to develop a response.

"He'll outline some commitments, some steps the United States is prepared to take to advance research and advance development of technology to help address some of these issues," said one official, who asked not to be identified.

Even as Bush prepared to reassure his critics, White House chief of staff Andrew Card accused European critics of hiding their own objections to the Kyoto treaty behind their vocal disapproval of the US position. *Reuters*

Holy man lays to rest ghost of Nepal king

KATMANDU—A wizened old Hindu holy man broke a sacred taboo yesterday, consuming a meal laced with animal marrow, to lay to rest the ghost of Nepal's murdered King Birendra and take on the woes of the troubled royal family.

The priest, a lifelong vegetarian and member of the highest Brahmin caste, had volunteered his services for the "Katto" ceremony in order to banish the ghost of Birendra from Katmandu, where the Shah dynasty has occupied the Monkey Throne for centuries.

As he rode across the Bagmati river on elephant back, he stared somberly ahead. He will never be allowed to return to the Katmandu Valley and must spend the rest of his life in exile.

Devout Nepalis hope the troubles that have gripped this Himalayan mountain kingdom since the June 1 palace massacre will begin to ease now that one of their religion's most sacred traditions has been observed.

Birendra, his wife and seven other members of the royal family were gunned down by Crown Prince Dipendra that day, apparently in a drunken rage fuelled by his parents' opposition to his choice of bride.

Because he was named king as he lay dying in a coma, a similar ceremony will be performed for Dipendra on Wednesday.

Traditionally, the priest is supposed to eat marrow from a bone collected during the cremation of the dead monarch, but one Hindu scholar said he believed animal marrow had now been substituted.

"It is the symbolism of the act rather than the actual act that constitutes the acceptance of the undesirable," said Raj Simil Ghopal. "But the consumption of animal parts is heinous in itself, hence the banishment."

Monday's ceremony began under a scorching sun where the priest, dressed only in a plain white dhoti (sarong), busied himself with ritual washing and prayers beneath an army canopy erected on the banks of the Bagmati river, the boundary of old Katmandu.

Throughout the morning, well-wishers arrived bearing gifts, clasping their hands together and murmuring "namaste" (blessings) as they went on their way.

They included Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, whose handling of the massacre has seriously diminished his ruling party's chances of retaining its shaky grip on government in elections for 20 national assembly seats on June 27.

A royal commission made up of two of his closest allies is due to report on the massacre on Thursday, but few expect the verdict to conclude anything other than naming Dipendra the murderer despite a swirl of conspiracy theories. *Reuters*

Macedonia army shells rebels despite threat

SKOPJE—The Macedonian Army yesterday launched an artillery attack on a village held by ethnic Albanian guerrillas despite a rebel threat to lob mortars on the capital Skopje if the government offensive in the north did not cease.

The Army opened heavy fire on the northern village Slupcane at 6 a.m. with artillery and tanks, ignoring the threat by Commander Hoxha, leader of a rebel force estimated at up to 800 fighters in the Skopje suburb of Aracinovo, to mortar bomb the capital if the Army did not let up.

Commander Hoxha said by telephone he was throwing down the gauntlet to Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski to stop an army push on rebel-held villages north of Skopje or see mortar rounds land on his capital for the first time in the four-month crisis, which has threatened a new Balkans bloodbath.

"I have launched an ultimatum to Georgievski. He has until tomorrow (Monday) morning to stop the bombardments. They are razing the houses in the villages.

"I will start attacking police stations and the airport, the government and parliament, everything I can with our 120 mm mortars. We don't have many but they are effective. We will attack from the mountains.

"We are not very good shots but we can easily hit the airport," he said, warning there could be civilian casualties.

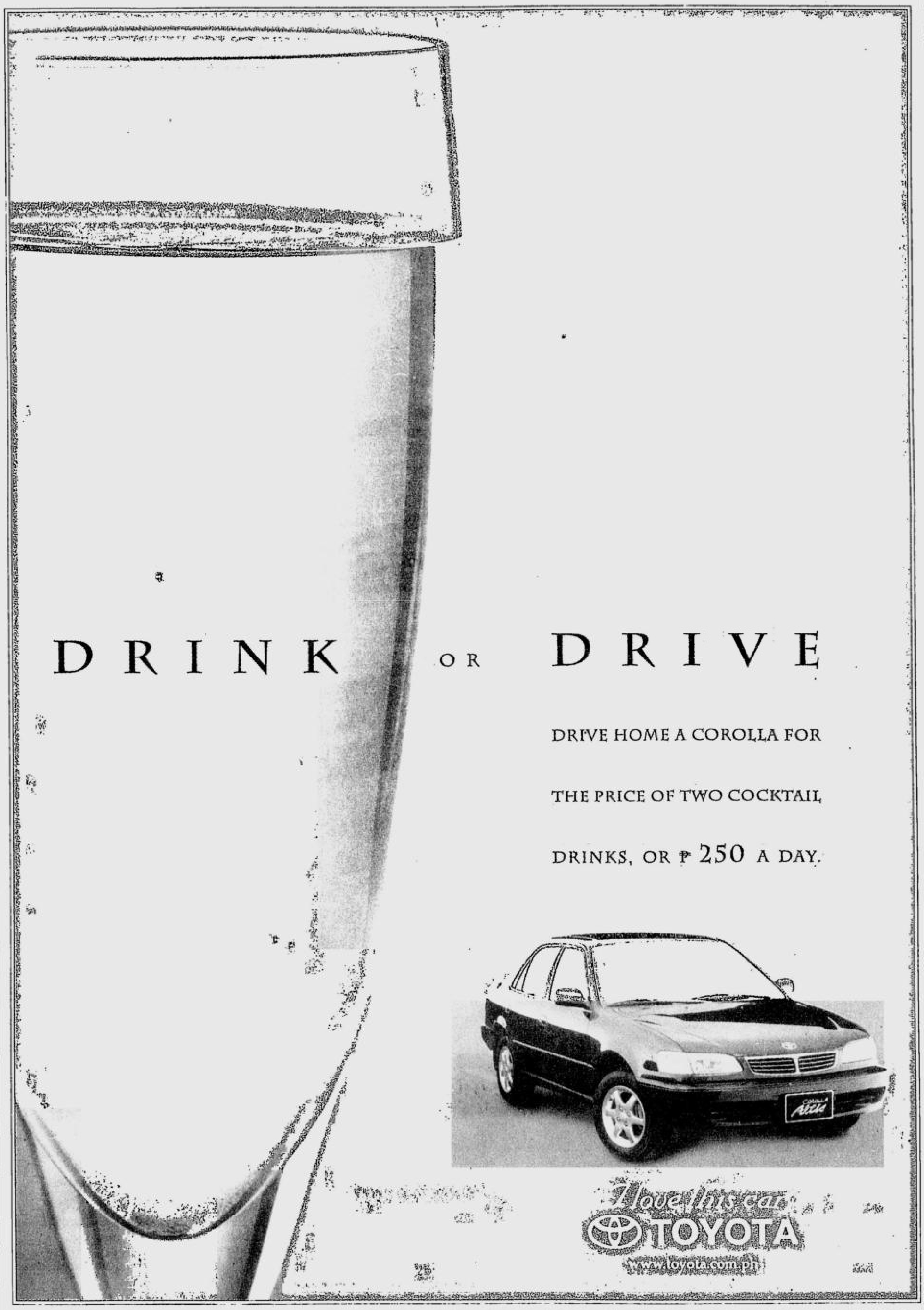
Military sources say that a 120 mm mortar could fire at a range of up to eight kilometers, which would put the center of the capital within firing distance.

One Western diplomat in Skopje said the rebels could probably not hit the airport or the city center from their current positions, although they could "undoubtedly take out the main road to the airport," an important logistical hub for Nato's peacekeeping operations in UN-administered Kosovo.

He said if the rebels do start lobbing shells into the edges of Skopje the Macedonia Army will have to "reconsider its tactics."

"Obviously they can't just stand by and let them do it. They may have to stop their activity in the north and do something about it,' he said.

The rebel-held villages in the Black Mountains just north of Skopje have been pounded by Army artillery for more than month in a bid to dislodge the self-styled National Liberation Army. *AFP*



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Stabber aimed to ensure execution, says cop

IKEDA, Japan—A man accused of stabbing eight children to death in Japan told police he targeted an elite school for his killing spree to make sure he got the death penalty, a police official said yesterday.

"The reason why I picked Ikeda Elementary School was because I thought I would surely be sentenced to death if I killed elite and intelligent children," Mamoru Takuma was quoted as telling investigators.

The information was provided by an Osaka Prefectural police official on condition that he would not be named.

Takuma, who had been hospitalized in the past for schizophrenia, went on a bloody 12-minute rampage with a butcher's knife on Friday at the school in Ikeda, near Osaka, killing eight children and injuring 13 others and two teachers.

Having taken a massive dose of drugs and barely conscious, Takuma told police immediately after being arrested on Friday that he had failed in several suicide attempts and wanted to be executed.

At first Takuma denied any knowledge of having been at the school, however, claiming to have stabbed about 100 people at the railway station, but he later confessed to the school slaughter, the official said.

"Takuma said he bought the knife used in the crime at a shop near his home in Ikeda city before going to the school," the official said.

The shopkeeper told investigators he remembered the man purchasing the knife between 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Friday, minutes before the stabbing, the official said.

The man was the first customer of the day and the knife cost $61 the shopkeeper told police.

Police have still been unable to question children who survived the horrific attack because they are traumatized.

"Since the children are in such a state of shock, we were barely able to interview," the official said.

Class teachers and psychologists were due to start visiting the children at home later in the day to try to assess their mental state.

Takuma told police that he attacked second-graders in one class because no teacher was in the room at the time, Japan Broadcasting Corp., reported.

Takuma was a janitor at an elementary school in nearby Itami until early 1999 when he was arrested for allegedly lacing tea with tranquilizers and serving it to four teachers at the school, police said.

He confessed but was freed on the grounds that he was mentally unstable, and hospitalized instead, reports said. *AFP*

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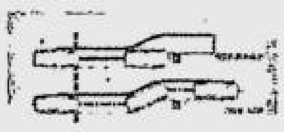

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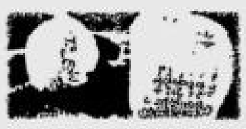

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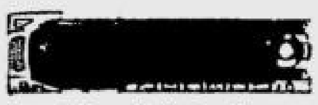

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Seoul orders army to fight worst drought

SEOUL—The South Korean government has ordered water rationing and called in 110,000 troops, or one fifth of the Army, to help farmers battle the country's worst drought in a century.

The Navy and Air Force took emergency supplies to people in drought-stricken districts and islands where water is being rationed, or has run out. But weather forecasters warned no rainfall was expected.

The Army mobilization was the biggest since the South Korean military was set up 53 years ago at the start of the Korean War. The South has a 570,000 strong Army.

The heat wave, which weathermen say is the country's most intense since records were started in 1904, is forcing factories to shut and farmers to give up planting rice.

Armed forces commander Gen. Kil Hyong-bo issued an emergency drought order. "Let all forces and equipment, except those on emergency military operations, be ready to give support until the drought eases," he said.

The Army said 110,000 troops will join daily anti-drought operations to drill wells and mobilize pumps and water rationing vehicles.

Navy ships have been taking water to some coastal areas and remote islands since last week, defense officials said.

The Air Force has been taking water to rice growing districts in the southern province of Kyongsang and Kangwon in the east.

Almost 200,000 people in 57,000 households were only getting rationed amounts of water, according to statistics from the civil emergency office

South Korean media, including broadcasting companies, have launched a fund-raising campaign to help farmers buy pumps to fight drought.

"I look up to the skies every day, waiting for rain to fall," President Kim Dae-jung told the Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation joining the campaign.

But the Korean Meteorological Administration said it was expecting no rain until the end of the month.

"A rain front, seen moving north toward the country, is expected to land in late June, if it keeps on its present course," Kim Sung-bae, a spokesperson for the weather office, said.

He said the weather office was considering asking the air force to spray dry ice in the sky to produce artificial rain in some drought-hit areas.

The drought has also severely hit North Korea, worsening the already drastic food shortages in the famine-stricken communist country.

The North has been plagued by seven consecutive years of food shortages, caused by failed economic policies and natural disasters. *AFP*

Disabled used in nuke tests, paper reveals

LONDON—Britain used physically and mentally handicapped people as guinea pigs during nuclear tests in Australia in the 1950s, the daily The Independent reported yesterday.

The handicapped people were never seen again after the tests and they probably died after being present during nuclear explosions at Maralinga in the desert of South Australia, the paper said.

The Independent recalled that similar allegations had been investigated and rejected in 1985 by an Australian royal commission.

However, it said, a pilot who claimed to have taken the handicapped people to the test site confided at the end of the 1980s in an Australian scientist, Robert Jackson.

Jackson, director of the Center for Disability Research and Development at Edith Cowan University in Perth, found the pilot's statements credible and was trying to find the man, who used to work for the center but left several years ago.

Several Australian soldiers based at Maralinga had said that two groups of seriously handicapped people had been taken to a test area shortly before one of the 12 nuclear blasts carried out by Britain in Australia in the 1950s, the paper said.

At the beginning of May the British government admitted having exposed 12 soldiers from New Zealand, Australia and Britain to nuclear radiation, while saying their role was to test protective military clothing.

The British defense ministry spokesperson then said: "These were not nuclear tests as such, these were radiation tests on clothing. We were not testing people, we were testing the clothing. People have never been used as guinea pigs."

The British government claimed in the European Court of Human Rights in 1997 that no humans had ever been used in experiments in nuclear weapons trials. *AFP*

Globalization destroys local cultures–Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad hit out yesterday at what he called the "destruction of morality" in the Western world.

Mahathir, reiterating his frequent warnings about the dangers of unregulated globalization, said the process also imperiled local cultures.

In the materialistic world "homosexuality is actively encouraged and in some instances even incestuous relations between siblings and parents and children are tolerated," he said.

"It seems that in the name of human rights anything is allowed, nothing is barred. Marriage and families are no longer respected institutions."

He was speaking at a seminar on the impact of globalization on the Islamic world.

Answering questions from the floor, Mahathir said globalization was not just about material wealth, trade and businesses but also about culture.

Since globalization was an idea from the West, the culture being advocated and promoted was also Western culture.

"I don't see why we need to accept globalization of culture. That is what differentiates us. God creates us in various races and ethnic groups, why should we be standardized?" he said.

"There are attempts now to force the whole world to have a single culture and a single set of values and to forbid anything else from being practiced, and yet they (West) advocate democracy," he said.

"What is the meaning of democracy if you are given only one choice?" *AFP*

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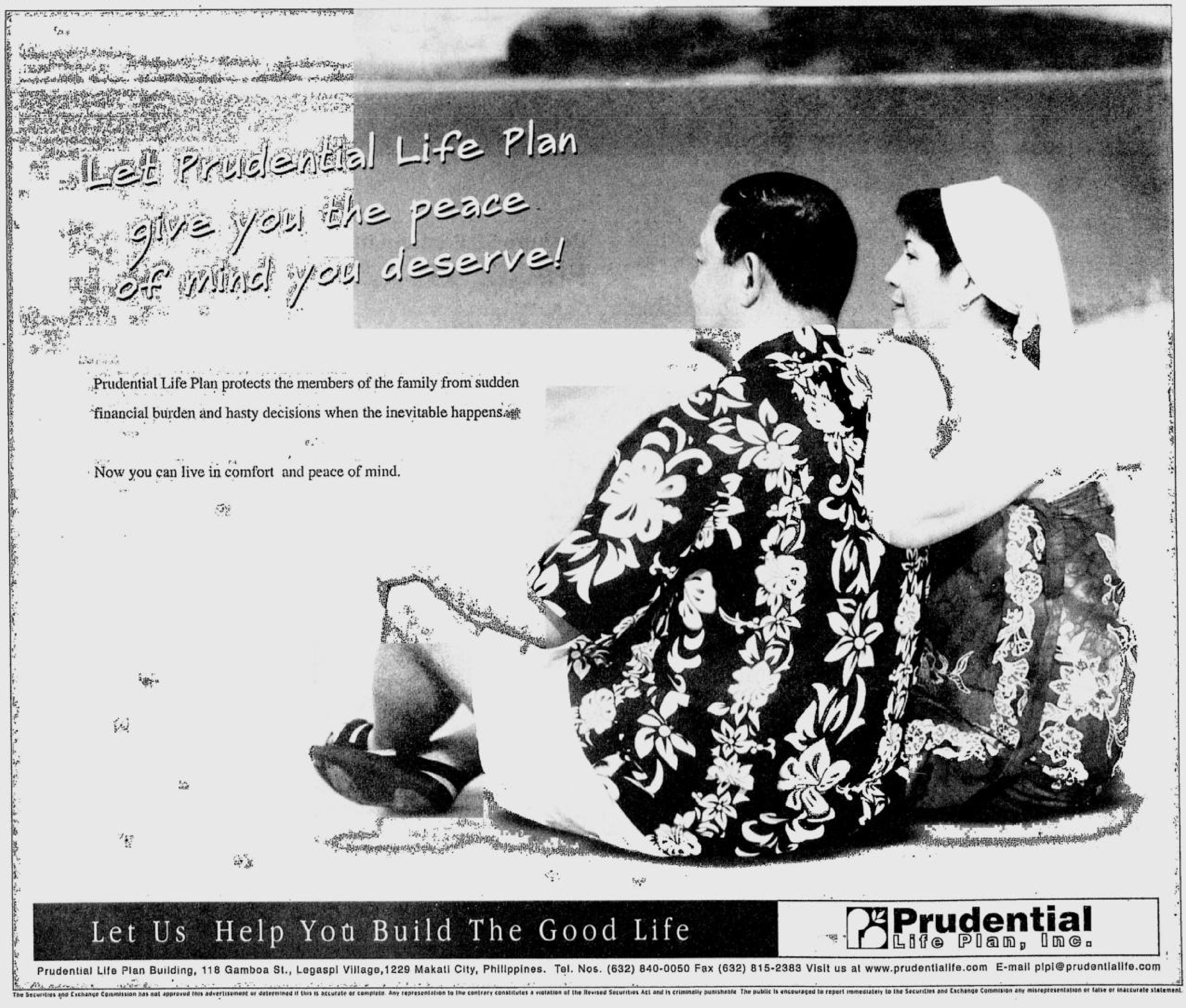
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Farmers demanding land shot; 8 hurt

DAVAO CITY—A picket of farmers from various banana plantations in Davao Oriental and Davao del Norte turned bloody when two security guards of the Department of Agrarian Reform fired their shotguns and .38-cal. revolvers at the protesters.

The guards hit eight members of the Ugnayan ng Nagsasariling Organisasyon sa Kanayunan (Unorka).

Security guards Jonathan Taub and Noel Curpin allegedly fired their guns aiming at the ground to stop the protesters from padlocking the second gate of the DAR regional office here.

But splinters hit agrarian reform beneficiaries Edgar Nabasquez, Edgar Molina, Alejandro Hermocilla Jr., Edwin Malacao, Emiliano Orno Jr., Rex Casabuena, Carlos Cagaanan and Efren Caputon.

The victims were all hit in the feet while Cita Granada lost consciousness. The distance between the guards and picketing farmers was just about a meter.

The wounded farmers were brought to the Davao Medical Center.

A farmer who refused to be identified said a guard, who aimed his shotgun at the farmers, threatened to fire at them if they would not remove a chain that the farmers tied around the DAR office gate.

He alleged that another guard fired thrice his .38-cal. revolver while another fired his shotgun twice.

DAR janitor Danilo Pution said he was unaware of what happened because he only helped the guards stop the farmers from closing the gate. Pution was hit by a splinter in the back.

Angelito Dalayon, chief security officer of the DAR, said Taub tried to talk them into keeping the gate open. But the farmers would not listen, he said.

Dalayon said Taub reported to him that he only fired his gun at the ground to pacify the farmers.

The more than 200 farmers, who are among 8,000 agrarian reform beneficiaries, have been picketing the DAR office since June 5, demanding the early solution of their petitions to be included as agrarian reform beneficiaries on land being awarded by the DAR.

Their petitions are now pending with the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Darab) in Manila.

DAR regional director Rodolfo Inson said the issues raised by the farmers were no longer new to them.

There are five cases still pending with the Darab office in Manila such as the Bernardino case in Banaybanay, Davao Oriental, where four landholdings, which are still owned by the heirs of Bernardino, are being placed under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

The second is the case of Dapecol beneficiaries in Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte, who are demanding a share of 5,300 hectares of land placed under agrarian reform.

Inson said the Dapecol case is being discussed by the DAR and the Department of Justice.

Unorka claimed that there was an order from the DAR in January last year for a hectare of land each to be distributed to the farmers.

But the DAR said it could not implement the order until the cases have been resolved by the Darab. *Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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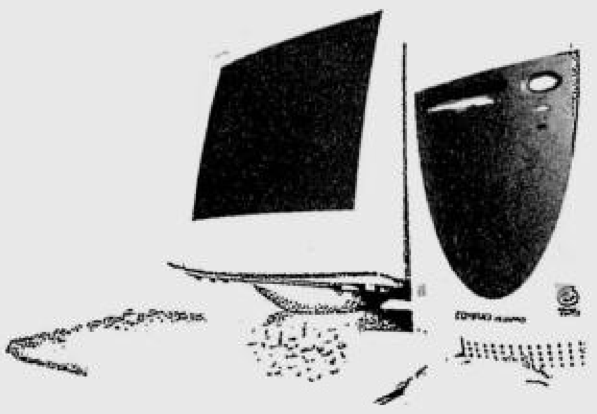

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Turnout heavy in special East Samar polls

BY VICENTE S. LABRO
PDI Visayas Bureau

CAN-AVID, Eastern Samar—The special elections in this town proceeded yesterday amid allegations of missing ballots and a call to exclude two precincts from the elections.

Election officials here said the elections went peacefully amid a heavy turnout of voters in the 20 precincts in this town which failed to function on May 14 due to the delayed delivery of additional official ballots.

More than 3,400 of the town's 9,000 registered voters cast their votes here yesterday.

The elections proceeded in all 20 precincts despite a petition filed by the camp of former Rep. Jose Tan Ramirez, the gubernatorial candidate of Lakas-NUCD, to exclude two precincts from yesterday's elections.

Ramirez also questioned why the ballots used in yesterday's elections were still dated May 14, 2001.

Municipal election officer Eva Obon admitted that precincts 23A and 23A1 of Barangay 10 were not included in Comelec Resolution 4448 that called for the holding of the special polls. But Comelec Commissioner Rufino Javier, commissioner in charge for Eastern Visayas, has corrected the resolution and eventually included these precincts in an "addendum" memorandum, she said.

Obon, in a letter dated June 11 to Ramirez, assured that the petition of the Ramirez camp would be sent to the Comelec en banc and to the office of Javier "for appropriate action."

Missing ballots

Can-avid reelectionist Mayor Luisto Ong, on the other hand, complained that some official ballots have been reported missing.

He claimed that 100 ballots were missing out of the more than 3,000 ballots that arrived late on May 14 and which were used in yesterday's special polls. These allegations, however, could not be verified immediately.

Police and military men were all over Can-avid yesterday to ensure that the special elections were peaceful as voters trooped to their precincts as early as 7:30 a.m.

In Precinct 23A1, the members of the Board of Election Inspectors had to issue numbers so voters would not clog the doors. The voters were told to wait outside the classroom until their numbers were called.

In a couple of precincts, desks and chairs were placed under the shade of acacia and mango trees outside the precincts for voters who had to wait for their turns to cast their votes.

The result in Can-avid will determine who will be the next governor of Eastern Samar. Results from 22 of the 23 towns in the province showed board member Clotilde Salazar (NPC) leading with 43,731 votes followed by Ramirez (Lakas) with 41,419 votes and reelectionist Gov. Ruperto Ambil Jr. (LDP) with 35,631 votes.

The special elections here were held simultaneously with special elections in one precinct each in Calbayog City, Motiong and Sta. Margarita towns, all in Samar province.

The special elections in the Samar areas proceeded without any untoward incident, said Chief Insp. Pio Manito, head of the Operations Division of the Philippine National Police in Eastern Visayas.

The results of the elections in Barangays Mabini in Calbayog and Jalacao, Sta. Margarita will determine the winner in the congressional race in Samar's first district. Paz Tuazon (Lakas), wife of incumbent Rep. Rodolfo Tuazon, is trailing by only 118 votes for outgoing Calbayog Mayor Reynaldo Uy. *With a report from Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Tribute sought for Abu hunters

FILIPINO soldiers should take center stage in today's celebration of the country's independence day, a former chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines said.

Retired general Lisandro Abadia, in a statement, said special attention should be given to the soldiers who died pursuing Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan.

"Like the soldiers five decades ago who marched to their deaths to drive away foreign forces, our soldiers today face enemy fire to drive away the lawless elements of our society," Abadia said in his statement.

Abadia was chief of staff of the AFP during the most tumultuous period of the country's recent history.

It was during his watch over the AFP when threats of coup were at its peak.

He said in the last world war, Filipino soldiers were not as trained and ready for the kind of combat they had to face, adding that there was too much reliance on American forces.

"That kind of reliance on the Americans are not there anymore, and we have to fight for our country regardless the odds and even with our bare hands," Abadia added.

"Our World War II heroes fought to the last blood, even when driven to the mountains by the mighty forces of the enemy," he said.

He said, however, that preserving democracy and freedom is a responsibility of everyone, not just of the soldiers.

Power reform neglects rural areas, says group

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Think of the thousands of people that would be displaced because of the passage of the power reform law, a Manila-based environmental and indigenous peoples' rights organization said, addressing itself to the government.

"The dangers of the power industry reform (act) lie as much in what it contains as in what it has omitted," said lawyer Marvic Leonen, executive director of the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRNRC).

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday signed into law the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 that would pave the way for the restructuring of the power industry and the privatization of the debt-laden National Power Corp.

Leonen said in the government's rush to provide power to "repackaging industries and mall enterprises which do little to address basic needs of rural communities," it ignored community-directed and managed electrification.

"Electrification of remote and unviable villages under Section 59 of the bill will now depend on the willingness of private companies to invest in bringing electricity to remote areas—something a profit-oriented industry will hardly prioritize," he said.

An issue paper made by the LRNRC, titled "Power for Sale," said "electrification as a social service is lost in the privatization thrust as envisioned and implemented by the government."

"It is not social welfare that is the object of the bill's stated missionary intentions but an expansion of markets," the paper said.

Leonen cited the struggles of farmers in Mauban, Quezon, who will be powerless against the construction of the Ogden-Bechtel transmission lines on or across their fields.

He also cited the Ibalois of Dalupirip in Itogon, Benguet, who declared that they would rather drown in the inundated reservoir of the San Roque multipurpose dam rather than leave their birthplace.

Although the San Roque dam will service Manila, Nueva Ecija and Subic, Dalupirip residents still use kerosene lamps and candles.

"Last November, the government enacted laws which allowed (the) entry of government projects into private lands even pending expropriation cases," Leonen said.

The two laws also made it legally impossible for communities opposed to large utility projects to use effectively the provisional remedy of injunction or temporary restraining orders to protect their vested rights, he said.

The Manobo-Pulangihon communities in Damulog, Bukidnon, will not be included in crucial decision-making processes over the proposed construction of the Pulangi V Dam, including the displacement they inevitably face and the use of natural resources in their domain, the LRNRC said.

"Nowhere in the power reform law is there any provision for the voice of affected communities," Leonen said.

Priest assails bad luck tag on church

MALOLOS, Bulacan—This town's parish priest accused local officials of creating a bad impression on the historic Barasoain Church when they refused to use the church as a venue to take their oaths of office on June 30.

Earlier, Bulacan officials rejected the suggestion of Gov. Josefina de la Cruz for them to hold their oath-taking ceremony at the Barasoain Church, saying they might suffer the same bad fate that has befallen ousted President Joseph Estrada who took his oath of office in the church in 1998.

"As new leaders of the province, they should have taken the lead in erasing the impression that Barasoain Church supposedly gives bad luck. They should hold their oath-taking ceremony here to erase the bad impression on the church," Msgr. Felino Capiral, Malolos parish priest, said in Filipino.

Capiral said the officials' decision has aggravated the prevailing wrong impression that Barasoain is "jinxed."

The Barasoain Church, a major historical edifice in the country and a tourist attraction in Bulacan, played a significant role in the birth of the Philippine Republic as it was in this church where the first Philippine Revolutionary Congress, also known as the Malolos Congress, held its sessions.

On the 103rd celebration of the country's independence on June 12, the church would be among the venues for Independence Day ceremonies.

Capiral said he was saddened by the Bulacan officials' decision, adding that the church has nothing to do with the fate of Estrada.

"They reached a wrong decision because the church has nothing to do with the former president's fate," he said, referring to Estrada's ouster and detention on corruption charges.

De la Cruz earlier suggested to other provincial officials that the ceremony be held at the church but she said they were lukewarm to her suggestion.

Estrada chose to take his oath at the Barasoain Church in 1998 as a fitting reminder that he is the country's "Centennial President."

"The venue has nothing to do with bad luck. It's the person who brings bad luck to himself," said Antonia Jimenez, curator of the Barasoain Church museum. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

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Carconigenic material in watch noted

BAGUIO CITY—The Department of Trade and Industry has warned the public against what it said was a Hong Kong-made watch with the brand name "Trophy" because its metal wristband is reportedly carcinogenic.

Maria Teresa Arao-Mahiwo, director of the DTI's Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection, said the Trophy watch metal band contained Cobalt-60, which is carcinogenic particularly if consistently in contact with the skin.

Mahiwo said the French Ministry of Finance and Industry has already issued a warning on the Trophy watch.

She said the watch might already be available here.

Deo Reyes, counselor of the Philippine Trade and Investment Promotion Office, said they were asking people who have already bought Trophy watches to return these immediately.

The French radiation protection agency said traces of Cobalt-60 were found in the hinges of the adjustment links on the watch's bracelet.

The watches, which are actually made in Hong Kong, bear the serial number T65007.3. The French agency tested the watches in November last year and found Cobalt-60 in half of the 3,000 watches that were tested.

But it said the amount of radioactivity "does not pose an immediate danger." So far, reports said Trophy watch is sold in France and no other reports from other countries have been received thus far.

But Iran has already banned the Trophy watch since January following a warning from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) over the watches' possible health hazards. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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	5J - 965	Daily	1240	1420			
	5J - 567/597*	Daily	1300	1540			
	5J - 967	Daily	1600	1740			
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	5J - 562	Daily	0900	1010			
	5J - 564	Daily	1100	1210			
	5J - 566	Daily	1300	1410			
	5J - 568	Daily	1500	1610			
	5J - 570	Daily	1700	1810			
	5J - 572	Daily	1900	2010			
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	0800	0850	P2,339	P2,039	*P1,799*
	5J - 597	Daily	1450	1540			
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	M/W/Th/Sat	0905	1000	P2,388	P2,089	*P1,799*
ILOILO	5J - 164	Daily	1630	1705	P1,799	P1,599	*P1,499*
BACOLOD	5J - 126	M/T/Th/Sat	0810	0840	P1,599	P1,399	*P1,299*
	5J - 128	W/F/Sun	1110	1140			

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	0720	0900	P3,307	P2,919	*P2,399*
	5J - 594/564*	Daily	0930	1210			
	5J - 964	Daily	1240	1420			
	5J - 966	Daily	1620	1800			
	5J - 968	Daily	1820	2000			
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	0930	1020	P2,339	P2,039	*P1,799*
	5J - 598	Daily	1500	1550			
ILOILO	5J - 598/164*	Daily	1500	1705	P3,295	P2,839	*P2,549*
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	T/F/Sun	0910	1010	P2,388	P2,089	*P1,799*

*via Cebu

New flight schedule

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	0715	0840	P3,295	P2,919	*P2,399*
	5J - 384	Daily	1135	1300			
	5J - 386	Daily	1405	1530			

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	0800	0910	P2,718	P2,419	*P1,999*
	5J - 656	Daily	1400	1510			
	5J - 658	Daily	1550	1700			

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 456	Daily	1135	1235	P2,498	P2,199	*P1,949*
	5J - 458	Daily	1650	1750			
	5J - 462	Daily	1800	1900			
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	0645	0720	P1,799	P1,599	*P1,499*
DAVAO	5J - 161/593*	Daily	0645	0850	P3,295	P2,839	*P2,549*

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 474	M/T/Th/Sat	0930	1030	P2,498	P2,199	*P1,949*
	5J - 474	W/F/Sun	0810	0910			
	5J - 476	Daily	1150	1250			
	5J - 478	Daily	1500	1600			
	5J - 480	Daily	1820	1920			
CEBU	5J - 125	M/T/Th/Sat	0700	0730	P1,599	P1,399	*P1,299*
	5J · 127	W/F/Sun	1230	1300			

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 852	Daily	1050	1220	P3,295	P2,639	*P2,399*
	5J - 432/568*	M/W/Th/Sat	0730	1010			
CEBU	5J - 432	M/W/Th/Sat	0730	0825	P2,388	P2,089	*P1,799*
DAVAO	5J - 394	T/F/Sun	0730	0830	P2,388	P2,089	*P1,799*

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	0710	0810	P2,279	P1,979	*P1,799*

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 628	Daily	1530	1640	P2,608	P2,309	*P1,999*

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES		
					NORMAL	VALUE	2-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	1030	1120	P2,608	P2,309	*P1,999*

NOTES:
- **All fares do not include government tax and are subject to government approval.**
- **Child's fare and other regular discounts are applicable against Normal Fares only.**
- **2-day Advance fare travel validity from June 13-October 12, 2001**
- **2-day Advance Fare last selling date is on October 10, 2001.**
- ***Effective June 14, 2001 schedule.***

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Oklahoma bomber executed by injection

(From page A1)

istered to McVeigh's right leg. McVeigh made eye contact with his four witnesses, then with the 10 media witnesses, then squinted toward the tinted window shielding the 10 victims' witnesses from his view.

Among those allowed to witness were 10 representatives of victims, 10 members of the media, and McVeigh's personal witnesses—Nigh, defense attorney Nathan Chambers, former defense team member Cate McCauley and Buffalo News reporter Lou Michel, who co-wrote a recent book on the bomber.

At McVeigh's request, no members of his family traveled to Terre Haute.

McVeigh had told those close to him in his final days that he still considered himself the victor in his one-man war against a government he labeled a bully for its disastrous raids at Waco, Texas, and Ruby Ridge in Idaho.

Prison officials said the decorated Gulf War veteran spent Sunday writing letters, sleeping, watching television and meeting with Nigh and Chambers.

McVeigh was served his final requested meal on Sunday afternoon—mint-chocolate chip ice cream.

Less than 24 hours before his death, McVeigh's mood had been upbeat, his attorneys said.

"He continues to be affable," Chambers said. "He continues to be rational in his discourse. He maintains his sense of humor."

McVeigh was transferred to an isolation cell near the death chamber on Sunday afternoon.

"He was able to look up in the sky and see the moon for the first time in a number of years," Nigh said.

Interest in guns

McVeigh was born in Pendleton, New York, near Buffalo, in 1968 and raised as a Roman Catholic in a middle-class environment. At a young age, he developed a keen interest in guns from his grandfather.

As he grew up, he developed a distrust of the government, yet he joined the Army and went on to serve in the Gulf War. He returned more disillusioned with the United States, viewing its treatment of the Iraqi people as that of a schoolyard bully.

Drifting across the country and taking on an increasingly survivalist mentality, he stewed over what he saw as government encroachment on the right to bear arms.

The federal raids at the Branch Davidian compound at Waco and the cabin of white separatist Randy Weaver at Ruby Ridge brought his hatred to a head.

He decided it was time for actions, not words.

McVeigh set his sights on the Oklahoma City federal building. He packed a rented truck with explosives, lit the fuses, parked it outside the federal building and walked away without looking back.

He was condemned to die for the deaths of eight federal agents buried in the rubble, but jurors in the death penalty phase of his 1997 trial labeled him responsible for all 168 deaths.

McVeigh's original execution date was May 16, but it was delayed after the FBI revealed it had withheld more than 4,500 documents from the defense during McVeigh's trial. The justice department said nothing in the documents cast doubt on the bomber's guilt.

Defense attorneys sought an additional delay but were turned down. McVeigh then decided to halt all appeals.

After McVeigh's death, officials at the Terre Haute prison—which houses the remaining 19 federal death row inmates—must prepare for another execution.

Drug kingpin Juan Raul Garza, a convicted murderer, is scheduled to die on June 19.

Although McVeigh was the first federal prisoner executed since 1963, state authorities have conducted more than 700 executions since the US Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty 25 years ago. *AP*

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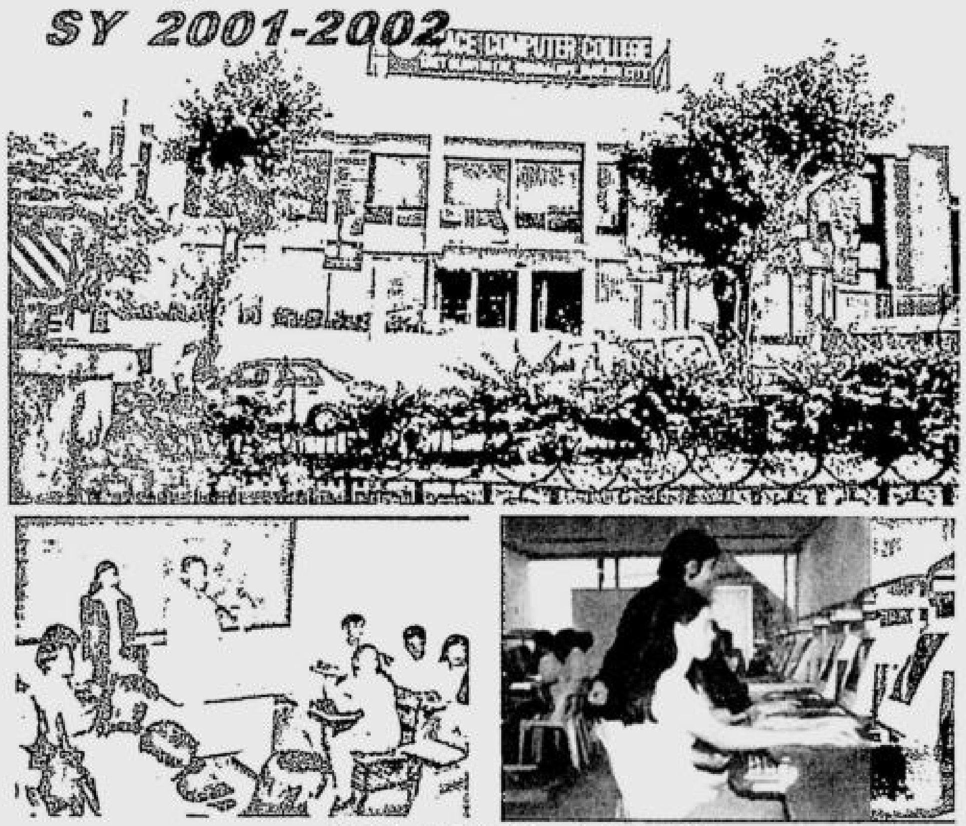

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SPECIAL PROJECT

Q&A on SSS Retirement Benefit

1. **What is the SSS retirement benefit?**

It is a cash benefit paid to an SSS member who can no longer work due to old age.

2. **Who may qualify for a retirement benefit?**

A member who is 55 years old provided that he is an underground worker;
A member who is 60 years old and unemployed; and
A member who is 65 years old, whether employed or unemployed.

3. **What are the types of retirement benefits?**

There are two types of retirement benefits. They are:

The monthly pension; and
The lumpsum amount.

The monthly pension is a lifetime cash benefit paid to a retiree who has paid at least 120 monthly contributions to the SSS prior to the semester of retirement.

The lump sum amount is granted to a pensioner who has not paid the required 120 monthly contributions. The amount to be received is equal to the total contributions plus interest.

The retiree is entitled to a 13th month pension given every December and Medicare benefits from the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

4. **How much monthly pension will a retiree pensioner receive?**

The lowest monthly pension is P1,200 if the member has at least 120 monthly contributions and P2,400 if he/she has at least 20 Credited Years of Service.

A retiree has the option to receive his/her first 18 monthly pensions in lump sum discounted at a rate of interest to be determined by the SSS.

The dependents' and 13th month pensions are excluded from the 18-month lump sum pension.

5. **What happens when the retirement pensioner resumes employment?**

The monthly pension of a retiree who resumes employment and is less than 65 years old will be suspended.

6. **How is the monthly pension paid?**

The monthly pension is paid through the member's chosen bank. The retiree should use a single savings account for this purpose.

7. **Are the children of a retiree member entitled to the dependent's pension?**

The dependent legitimate, legitimated, legally adopted and illegitimate children, conceived on or before the date of contingency, of a retiree will receive a dependent's pension equivalent to 10 per cent of the member's pension or P250, whichever is higher.

Only five minor children, starting from the youngest are entitled to the dependent's pension and no substitution is allowed.

When there are more than five legitimate and illegitimate children, the legitimate ones will be preferred.

8. **What papers/documents are needed in filing for retirement benefit?**

The forms needed are:

SSS Form DDR-1 (application for Death, Disability and Retirement Claim).
Separation paper from last employer if the member is less than 65 years old;
Birth certificate of member if the date of birth in the SSS Form E-1 (personal data record) is not the same as the date of birth indicated in the application form;
Passbook;
Birth or baptismal certificates of dependent children;
Marriage certificate; and
Proofs of filiation for illegitimate children.

9. **Where can a member file the retirement application?**

A member may file his application form at any SSS branch nearest his/her residence.

Please visit the SSS office near your place of work or residence for further information.

Media Affairs Department
May 2001

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INDEPENDENCE *Day*

LARRY MARIANO, Account Manager
ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

Celebration for all ages, backgrounds

Araw ng Kalayaan
Traditional simultaneous flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremonies at six designated historical venues.
Guests of Honors and Speakers:
H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President, Republic of the Philippines
Rizal National Monument, Rizal Park, Manila
Honorable Teofisto T. Guingona Jr.
Vice President, Republic of the Philippines
and Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs
Aguinaldo Shrine, Kawit, Cavite
Honorable Edgardo J. Angara
Senator-Elect and Former Secretary
Department of Agriculture
Pinaglabanan Memorial Shrine, San Juan, Metro Manila
Honorable Feliciano R. Belmonte Jr.
Speaker, House of Representatives
Barasoain Church, Historical Landmark, Malolos, Bulacan
Honorable Manuel B. Villar Jr.
Senator-Elect and Former Speaker
House of Representatives
Bonifacio Monument, Caloocan
Honorable Angelo T. Reyes
Secretary, Department of National Defense
Mausoleo de los Veteranos de la Revolucion,
Manila North Cemetery

Nationwide Programs
Replication by LGUs throughout the country of suitable historical-cultural activities similar to those to be undertaken by national government agencies. These include: flag raising, wreath laying, display of flags starting May 28 in government buildings, public places, thoroughfares and roads, jobs fair, Peoples Day, etc..

International Programs
Independence Day celebrations in Philippine diplomatic posts abroad.

Sports exhibition at the park
- Rexona's Independence Day aerobics marathon
  Rizal Park, Manila
- Arnis at Sikaran exhibition
  Quirino Grandstand Parade Grounds

Vin D' Honneur
The traditional toast to Philippine Independence
Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang Palace, Manila

Marching Band Exhibition
A two-hour exhibition by AFP bands
Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park, Manila

Parada ng Kalayaan
Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park, Manila

The "Parada ng Kalayaan" will be a People's Parade that will focus on the legendary spirituality and *bayanihan* spirit of the Filipinos as their guiding light in achieving their dreams in the fields of public governance, arts and culture, trade and industry, science and technology, tourism, agriculture, sports and education. Visually, it will be a colorful parade of people performing specific production numbers or doing specific choreographic movements, and highlighted by occasional floats/floatlets all trumpeting a message of unity and brotherhood among Filipinos during these challenging times and, in consequence, of moving ahead to be the number one country of the region. The parade will touch, among others, on the essence of the following government thrusts:

- Poverty alleviation
- Employment generation and creation of livelihood opportunities
- Establishment of political stability and good governance characterized by high standards of morality and performance
- Economic revival and sustained growth
- Global competitiveness, modernization, and a standard of excellence in all national efforts

Pailaw sa Kalayaan
A thematic 15-minute fireworks display
At the back of the Quirino Grandstand

Alay ng GMA sa Kalayaan
This is a special cultural show featuring artists from GMA-7.
San Lorenzo Ruiz Plaza (fronting the Old Army and Navy Club), Rizal Park, Manila (Phase II)

Street Dancing
A post-parade street-dancing and live bands performances. *Malate, Manila*

Conferment of National Artists Awards, June 13
A program that honors select individuals for their lifetime achievements in the arts
Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang Palace, Manila.

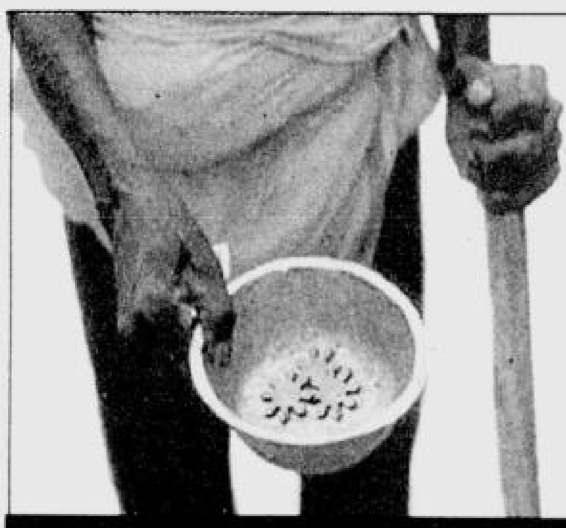
National Multimedia Coverage, June 2001

Printing of the Kalayaan 2001 souvenir brochure, June-September 2001

President's Activities for 103rd Independence Day

7 a.m. Flag raising,
Luneta
11 a.m. Vin d' honneur,
Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang Plaza
3 p.m. Civic Military Parade
Quirino Grandstand

Note: A simultaneous ceremony will also be held in Cavite



We want freedom, freedom from poverty...

There is no true freedom while poverty keeps our people in constant bondage.

On this day, as we commemorate the nation's independence, Thames International Business School reaffirms its firm commitment to join forces with our Government in the war against poverty. The Thames International community recognizes that the war against poverty is everyone's fight. It is not the Government's alone. It is the entire nation's. And to win this war, we need to be truly united as a people. With common goals and shared ideals. And with great tolerance for religious and cultural differences. Together in unity we can do great things. We have done it in Edsa. We can do it again, and this time to liberate our people from hunger and want. Recognizing that ignorance and poverty are twin evils, Thames International is fighting this war from the educational front using all its resources, strengths and talents. Our inexhaustible arsenal are our graduates, the next generation of Filipino leaders, equipped with the business skills and knowledge obtained from the most prestigious universities abroad. Thames International is calling on the whole nation to join hands with the Government in this war of liberation from poverty. There is no true freedom while poverty keeps our people in constant bondage.

From the community of **Thames International Business School**

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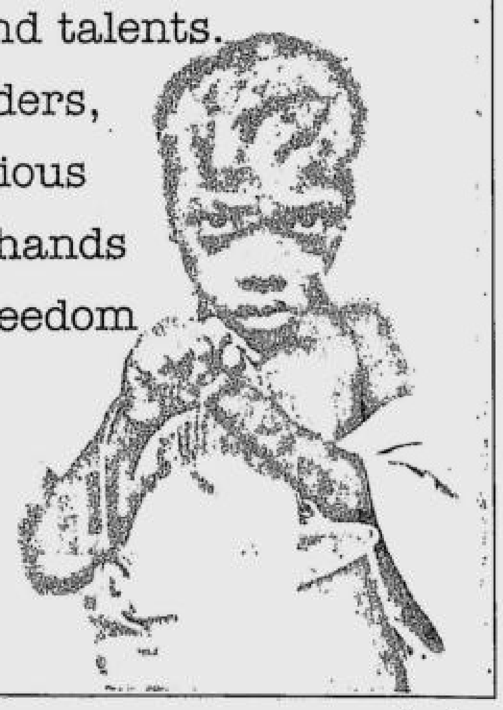
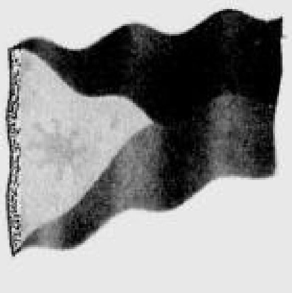


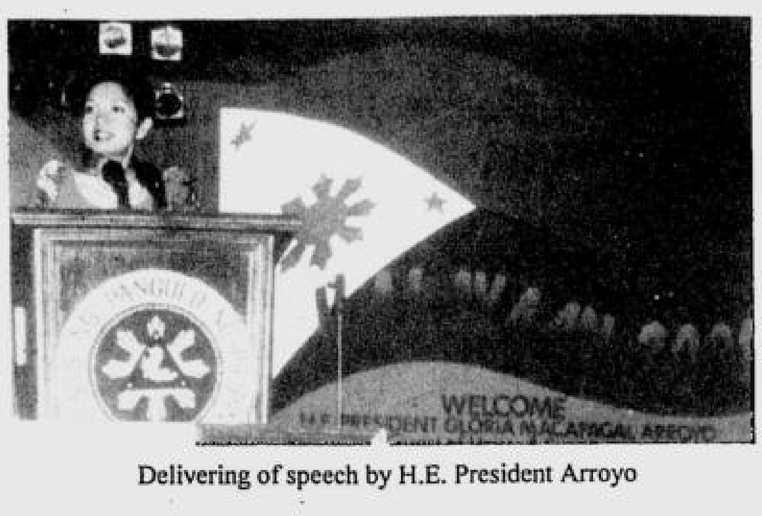
Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc.

and the Filipino-Chinese community join the nation in celebrating the 103rd Philippine Independence Day



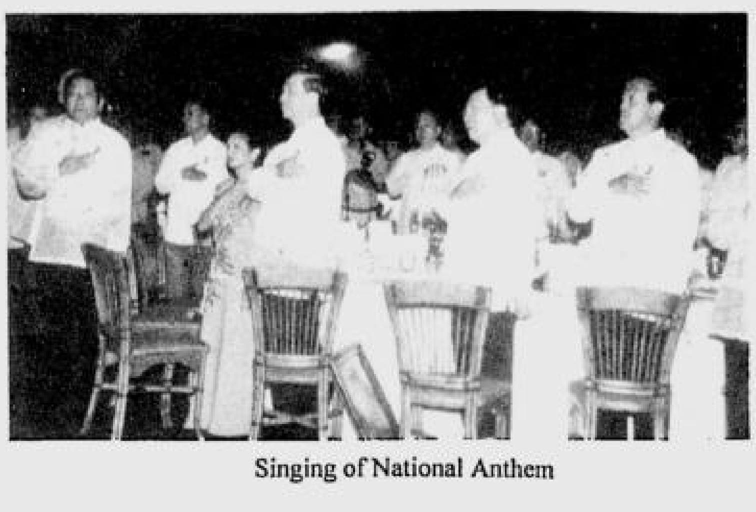
Araw Ng Kalayaan Dinner

(an advance celebration on 08 June 2001)



Delivering of speech by H.E. President Arroyo

WELCOME
H.E. PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO



Singing of National Anthem

Presentation of Portrait Sketch (A Very Precious Moment in the Life of two Great Leaders) to H.E. President Arroyo by FFCCCII President Benjamin G. Chua, Jr.

With President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as Guest of Honor and Speaker, the FFCCCII and some 140 Filipino-Chinese NGOs sponsored an "Araw Ng Kalayaan" dinner at Philppine International Convention Center.

FFCCCII spearheading Filipino-Chinese Celebration of RP's 103rd Independence Day

The Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCII) is spearheading the celebration by the Filipino-Chinese community of the 103rd Independence Day and for this has lined up a series of activities.

FFCCCII president Benjamin Chua Jr. urged the Filipino-Chinese community all over the country to prominently display the Philippine flag from the period May 28 to June 12 pursuant to an executive order issued on May 24, 1994. The Federation's 156 member-chapters are leading in their respective localities this public display of our national emblem.

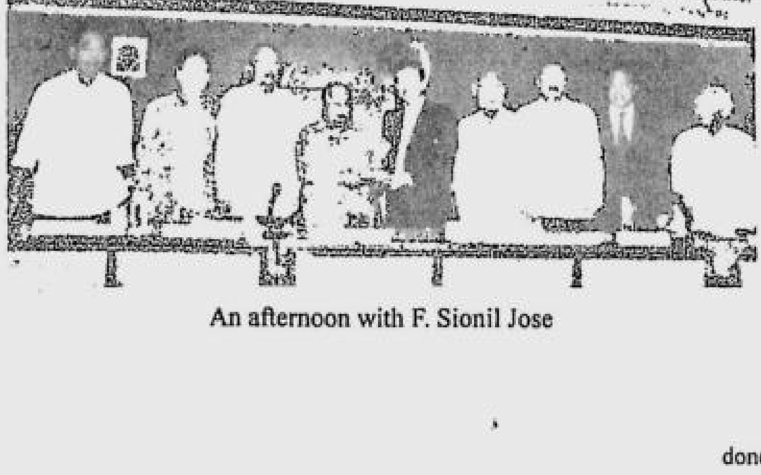
Today, the Federation is sponsoring a public forum dubbed: "An Afternoon with F. Sionil Jose" at the Federation Center's auditorium, Muelle de Binondo, Manila. Sionil Jose is the new National Artist who is best known for his consistent espousal of the aspirations of the Filipino- for national sovereignty and social justice. A prolific writer, publisher, lecturer on cultural issues and founder of the Philippine chapter of the international organization PEN, Sionil Jose was bestowed the CCP Centennial Honors for the Arts in 1999, the Outstanding Fulbrighters Award for Literature in 1998, and the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts in 1980. Additionally, his achievements had resulted in the conferment of three honorary doctorate degrees in the Humanities, from UP (1992), DLSU (1995) and FEU (2000).

There will be an Independence Day dinner celebration to be held on June 8 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the guest of honor and speaker. With FFCCCII as lead organizer, more than 140 Filipino-Chinese NGOs have committed themselves to join the dinner with guests expected to exceed 2,000.

On June 10, the FFCCCII will dispatch 10 medical and dental teams within Metro Manila to render free medical/dental services for the underprivileged sectors of our society.

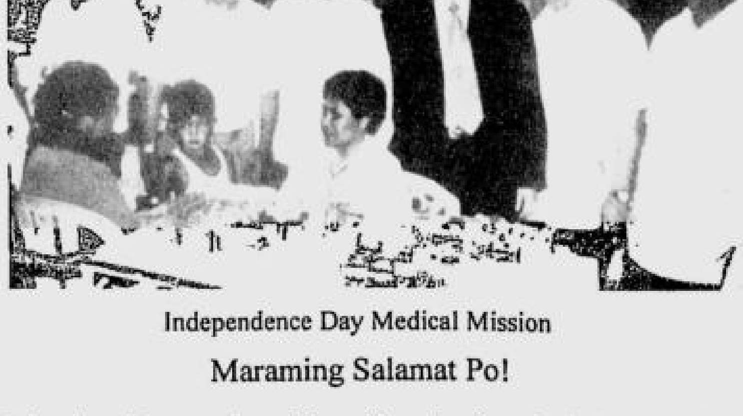
Finally, on June 12, Independence Day proper, the federation will participate in the grand Independence Day Parade at the Rizal Park, with participation from the various volunteer fire brigades and lion dance groups.

(published press release: Bulletin, Philippine Star, Malaya, Manila Standard, Daily Tribune, Business World, Inquirer & Manila Times)

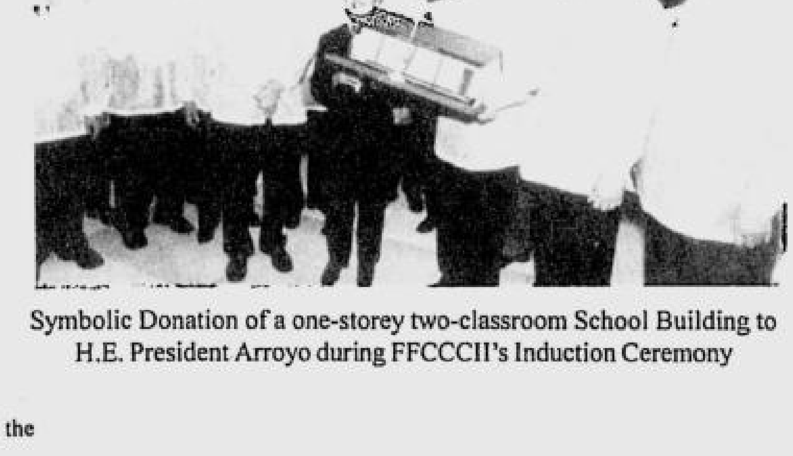


"AN AFTERNOON with F. SIONIL JOSE"
FEDERATION of FILIPI ...NESI ...HBI ...OMMERCE & INDUSTRY, INC.
06 JUN

An afternoon with F. Sionil Jose



Independence Day Medical Mission



FEDERATION OF FILIPINO-CHINESE CH...

Symbolic Donation of a one-storey two-classroom School Building to H.E. President Arroyo during FFCCCII's Induction Ceremony

Maraming Salamat Po!

The Federation wishes to acknowledge with profound gratitude the generosity of all the donors, past and present, to its flagship "Operation: Barrio Schools" project.

A total of 2,307 units of 2-classroom school buildings had been actually turned-over, whereas 100 units have been completed and are awaiting formal turnover.

For this term (2001-2003) of President Benjamin G. Chua, Jr., pledges for an additional 343 units have been committed by members/officers/directors of the Federation, as well as by generous members of the Chinese-Filipino community at-large.

Additionally, substantial donations have been received for the Federation's Special Projects Fund – which has been set-up to undertake meaningful activities and projects, for which gratitude and acclamation is due.

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KALAYAAN 2001: BAYAN KO, MAGKAISA, MANGUNA

Gov't blinks, agrees to talk with bandits

(From page A1)

103rd Brigade in Basilan, as saying.

Tiglao first indicated the change in the government's stance in an interview with Radio Mindanao Network (RMN) just before noon, to which Castillo and Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya were also hooked up.

"What we'd like to say is that we have no objection to Sairin Karno helping our negotiating team," he said, adding:

"We want to stress our agreement, if the Malaysian government will give its permission for Sairin to come to Manila and become part of our negotiating team. We just want this crisis to be resolved by all means."

Told that the government appeared to have changed its position, Tiglao said: "We will agree (to Sairin's participation). That is our position now. We will talk to the Malaysian government (about) it."

Sabaya later said the Abu Sayyaf "may postpone" the beheading of one of the American hostages, which had supposedly been scheduled at 11:45 a.m.

But if the government continues its military offensive, "it's up to them," he added.

At the briefing, Tiglao and National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said two Marine battalions had been deployed to Basilan to help the two brigades there in pursuing the Abu Sayyaf.

They also said that the President, upon the recommendation of the Armed Forces, had ordered that a Basilan Crisis Management Committee be set up.

The committee—with Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar as chair and Brig. Gen. Rene Dominguez, head of operations in the eastern zone of Basilan, as vice chair—is intended to ensure proper coordination between the military and local officials in solving the crisis, and swift response in similar incidents.

"This has been the strategy of the government from the very start—military action in tandem with negotiations, but negotiations only for the unconditional release of the hostages," Golez said.

"And this has not been changed. The only possible modification is that we are using another channel to continue the discussion for the hostages' release because perhaps this Malaysian person may have a formula . . . So the lines are open," he said.

Contrast

What Tiglao and Golez said yesterday were in stark contrast to their pronouncements last week that the government's only authorized negotiator was the mysterious Castillo.

"Castillo" is believed to be just a *nom de guerre* for a negotiator during last year's talks for the release of a group that the Abu Sayyaf seized from the Sipadan resort in Malaysia.

Just last weekend, Golez ruled out Sairin Karno's participation, saying all that Castillo wanted to know was why the Abu Sayyaf was insisting on the Malaysian.

At yesterday's briefing, Tiglao said the Philippine government's official request had been relayed to Kuala Lumpur.

"I would like to emphasize that our hands are tied in getting (Sairin) to help our intermediary if the Malaysian government doesn't allow him to do so," he said.

Tiglao said Malacañang would allow Sairin's participation just to keep communication lines with the Abu Sayyaf open, and to ensure that all the hostages would not be harmed or killed.

He then called RMN again to deny that the government had gone soft on the Abu Sayyaf.

"Human life is very important. We will do everything we can so that nobody will be hurt or killed, but the government policy against the payment of ransom to any terrorist remains," he said.

Asked by reporters to explain Malacañang's turnaround, Tiglao said: "Just look at the facts. Military operations are being intensified. We see our position as a small price to pay to ensure that no one is beheaded. Our strategy here is to conduct military operations and, at the same time, put paramount the life and wellbeing of each of the innocent victims.

"Look at what we're doing in Basilan and don't confuse the substance of things with efforts to keep lines of communication open."

To Sabaya's threat of beheading, Agence France Presse quoted Akbar as saying that "sometimes it's a bluff, sometimes it's not."

"When they see that it is to their advantage to behead the hostages they will do it. So sometimes they do it and sometimes they don't," Akbar said.

But in an Associated Press report, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan issued a stern warning to Sabaya against harming the hostages.

"There will be implications not only for him but also his family and his clan," Adan said.

'Same guy'

Sairin, a former member of Malaysia's upper house of Parliament, is a local chief in Sabah of the ruling United Malays National Organization.

He said last week that he would only negotiate if given the green light by his government.

Golez, however, said last weekend that the government had no background on Sairin apart from his being apparently the "same guy" who helped secure the release of some of the Sipadan hostages after ransom was supposedly paid.

Asked what would guarantee that no money would change hands, Tiglao said: "The talks with the Abu Sayyaf are still under the government's authority and control, and as we have emphasized again and again, we will never pay ransom and cannot give in to terrorist demands."

Golez said the effort to get Sairin involved in the negotiations was "a private initiative."

"Until now we are not very clear (about it). That's why we would like to meet with this guy Sairin so he can clarify how he can participate in the negotiations for the unconditional release of the hostages," Golez said.

The bandits seized the three Americans along with 17 Filipinos from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan on May 27 and took them to Basilan.

Nine of the Filipinos escaped during a military attack in Basilan, but the bandits executed two male Filipinos and later seized two nurses, a midwife and a clerk from a Basilan hospital.

Yesterday, they attacked another town in Basilan and took other hostages, including children. ***With reports from Armand N. Nocum, AFP, AP***

Abus raze chapel, seize 15 more hostages

(From page A1)

tages—9 from the Dos Palmas resort and 4 from Lamitan town—were seen encamping at Barangay Bulanza, according to the report.

The report said Janjalani and Sabaya occupied a high ground, which even has a falls.

Adan said Japilon and his brothers Sahilon and Baakal, together with their men, were acting as a blocking force.

Black shirts and bonnets

The bandits, clad in black sweatshirts and bonnets, ordered workers and residents of the plantation to gather. As they fled, the bandits took 60 people, mostly women and children. An hour later, the bandits freed 45 of the hostages.

Still with the bandits are workers Primitivo Falcasantos, Marlon Dagayanon, Crisanto Suela, Abdul Patta Muhammad, Rodrigo Solon, Vicente Terilio Sr., Vicente Terilio Jr., Ferdinand Terilio, Calbi Benasing, Bertan Benasing, Faisal Benasing, Roel Abellon, Michael Abellon, Ruben Valdesamos Jr. and Reynaldo Ariston.

But Falcasantos was one of those reportedly found dead.

The bandits also burned four houses owned by Felix Ambrosia, Espelita Suela, Antonio Solon and Teresita Ambrosio.

"I thought there were soldiers. They gave us signal to assemble," barangay chair Manuel Carpio said.

Carpio said the bandits fled toward Barangay Kanibungan.

Tahira Ishmail, mayor-elect of Lantawan town, said 30 to 50 families fled a nearby village over the weekend after they spotted Abu Sayyaf bandits with several hostages, including Californian Guillermo Sobero and Kansas missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the raid would not stop the military from its pursuit of the "main body," which was spotted in the same area and believed to be holding most of the hostages taken from a Palawan resort last month.

The Abu Sayyaf seized the three Americans and 17 other people from Dos Palmas Resort on May 27 and took them to Basilan.

Nine Filipino hostages escaped last Saturday amid a military offensive, including one man with a knife wound to the neck.

But the gunmen executed two other Filipino captives and later seized two nurses, a midwife and a clerk from a hospital in Lamitan on Basilan.

East and west military fronts

Golez said the hostage taking in Lantawan was brought about by the intensified campaign of the military, which has deployed another brigade and two Marine battalions against the Abu Sayyaf.

"We have divided Basilan into east and west, each headed by a senior brigade commander. (Col. Hermogenes) Esperon is in the west. He is now on the offensive and we believe this is one of the reasons why . . . there is this new hostage taking in the same area," Golez said.

"This is obviously a diversionary tactic on the part of the Abu Sayyaf to ease pressure bearing on the 100-200 men who have been found in Buansa, Lantawan," he said.

Crisis committee

Golez said local forces, the newly created Basilan Crisis Committee, would go after Japilon's group.

"The military won't divert their major assets to go after this group because they're after the main body, which is somewhere in Lantawan," he stressed.

"Like in basketball, you go after (Los Angeles Lakers star player) Shaque O' Neal and not be diverted by little players there," Golez said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the setting up of a Basilan Crisis Committee upon the recommendation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, according to presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

The committee will be led by Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar and have as vice chair, Brig. Gen. Rene Dominguez, division commander in Basilan.

Golez said one of the principal concerns of the committee "is how to address (the new abductions) without losing sight of the major objective, which is the main body of the Abu Sayyaf."

Journalists fired upon

A group of journalists, including an INQUIRER correspondent, aboard a speedboat on their way to the plantation was fired upon by the Navy at about 1 p.m.

Navy personnel onboard BRP Sultan Kuradat-PS 22 fired shots at the speedboat also carrying Lantawan Mayor Tahira Ismael and his bodyguards.

The Navy men allegedly continued firing even if the mayor and his companions were waving, indicating that they were unarmed.

The bullets landed inches away from the speedboat. The Navy men only stopped firing when the group waved a Philippine flag.

The group was later told that the speedboat had the same description as the one used by Abu Sabaya.

Mayor Ismael had with him 11 security guards composed of soldiers, policemen and militiamen.

The mayor's bodyguards were ordered to lay down their arms.

The group was held for at least 30 minutes *With a report from AP*

Estrada's lawyers . . .

(From page A1)

nal reforms, reflected "a very serious perceptual problem."

The lawyers specified the justice's reference to the jailbreak of then military rebel Gregorio Honasan under the Aquino administration, and his exhortation to the public to "sustain the momentum of the moment" in apparent connection with People Power II.

Badoy wrote that the court's stance against house arrest was bolstered by the escape of Honasan from military custody in the late '80s.

For the Estrada lawyers, the mention of the Honasan escape, despite the subsequent amnesty granted to the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan or RAM, "crossed a fine line."

Seeking sacrifice

The epilogue also included a portion subtitled "Sustain the momentum of the moment."

"With the prosecution and indictment of a President, while still sitting as President, a new day has finally dawned on our country and people," Badoy wrote.

The court, he also said, has been called upon to contribute its share in sustaining such momentum.

Saguisag and fellow counsel Felix Carao Jr. said that they had the right to expect the members of the antigraft court to be totally free from bias.

"The point is justice must satisfy the appearance of justice, for legitimacy and acceptability," the lawyers said.

"This proceeding may become so fatally flawed and infected that there is no way it can survive without having to pay high and unaffordable hidden social costs.

"The institutional damage would be heavy and irreparable and the only legitimate response is for no one to be perceived as sponsoring it. That is why sacrifice is sought," they contended.

The lawyers also noted what they called "the prudent concurring opinion of the two (other justices of the third division) who seemingly disassociated themselves from the reasoning of the honorable *ponente*."

Justices Teresita Leonardo-de Castro and Ricardo Ilarde had issued separate concurring opinions when the court struck down Estrada's petition for house arrest on the grounds that granting such a privilege would be unconstitutional and illegal.

3 motions

The defense team filed the motion for reconsideration late yesterday afternoon, a couple of days after the Sandiganbayan ordered Estrada and his son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, to be returned to their detention house in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

They reiterated their offer of a compromise—that the Estradas be detained in their Tanay rest house.

The omnibus motion was one of three motions filed by the defense yesterday.

The lawyers also asked for the rescheduling of the June 18 arraignment to pave the way for a discussion of the "ground rules" that would govern Estrada's trial.

Lawyer Raymond Fortun filed a third motion seeking to compel the prosecution to include outgoing Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson among those charged with plunder.

He noted that Singson had admitted participating in the alleged crimes.

The lawyers said that transferring the Estradas to their Greenhills home would cause only temporary inconvenience for the residents.

They also hit the court for saying that the Estradas might even tunnel their way out of the house, claiming that the remark suggests "prejudgment of the highest order."

"People may tunnel out of prison or stalags but certainly not out of the comfort of their own home crowded with many pleasant memories," the defense said.

Counsel also urged the court to be bold, adding: "We need to break new ground . . . We need a little compassion and understanding "

Opposition

One group that was not prepared to offer much compassion yesterday was lawyers' group Equal Justice for All Movement (E-Just), which said that Jinggoy Estrada did not deserve to stay with his father either at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center or at Fort Sto. Domingo in Laguna.

According to E-Just convenor Leonardo de Vera, Jinggoy should be detained in Camp Crame where Estrada's lawyer Edward Serapio has been jailed since he surrendered to authorities on April 25.

De Vera also said that while E-Just lauded the Sandiganbayan decision against house arrest, its lawyer-members would still oppose the transfer of the former President to the Laguna detention center.

"It's air-conditioned, there are curtains. There is even a refrigerator. It is not a jail cell," De Vera said. ***With a report from Rocky Nazareno***

AFP advised: More brains, not brawn

(From page A1)

move, move," Montaño said. "There's not enough pressure."

Montaño, who also served as a former Armed Forces vice chief of staff for operations, said Abu Sayyaf bandits were able to dictate their terms to the government because the military was unable to fix their location and engage them in decisive battles.

Why this is so, Montaño has an explanation. "The deployment of people and resources is wrong. They don't seem to know what to do!" he said.

Montaño said the military leadership was relying on the mass movement of troops and concentration of heavy firepower instead of using a more flexible and mobile-type of warfare.

"What is needed are more and more combat patrols," Montaño said. "But the military wants to move in battalion sizes."

"Basilan may be big but if you have soldiers constantly moving and searching, Basilan will become a small place for the Abu Sayyaf," he said.

Montaño fought Moro bandits—the remnants of a group then led by the legendary Kamlon—in Sulu as a young officer in the early 1960s.

Foot patrols better

Citing his experience, Montaño said: "There is nothing better than a soldier with a rifle and who knows how to walk."

"We practically walked the whole of Sulu during those times," Montaño said. "How can you find the enemy when you're riding armored vehicles."

Montaño advised the military to implement "full court pressure."

"You have Rangers and Special Forces. Put them in the jungle. They should stay there At night, use night vision goggles. Something's got to move in there sooner or later," the retired general said.

Based on historical data on military casualties, soldiers riding vehicles were more likely to get killed than those moving on foot, according to Montaño.

He also noted that the military's intelligence had been rendered inutile because soldiers refused to maximize the full potential of civilians.

"They treat civilians as Abu Sayyaf. How can you get good intelligence from these people who know the place?" Montaño said.

He lauded Malacañang's offer of a P100-million bounty for the arrest and neutralization of Abu Sayyaf leaders and members

Tap civilians

But Montaño said: "How can this reward system work when you don't trust civilians."

He pointed to Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar's offer for the military to use his intelligence network. The offer was not warmly received.

"Remember you're hunting down just a small group of men with rifles," Montaño said.

In his regular press briefing yesterday, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said the military was doing everything to find the bandits."

"It's not just us but also local officials who are helping to locate them. That's what we are doing at the moment," Adan said.

Chinoys agog over independence celebration

(From page A1)

In a ceremony that was part of the group's "Grand Salute to the Filipino Flag," club officers Dante Go, Aw Peng Lam, Daniel Laogan, Siy Yap Chua and George Lee presented the President with a symbolic check for the P1-million donation.

Victories

The President yesterday hailed "modern-day victories," which she said make this year's anniversary "extra meaningful," but ignored the hostage crisis perpetrated by Abu Sayyaf bandits claiming to be independence fighters.

"The triumph of People Power at Edsa II, the aborted attempt of ambitious forces to exploit the masses, and our May 14th national and local elections. All these once more reaffirm the Filipinos' determination to live as a free, democratic and dignified nation," Ms Macapagal said in a nationally televised message on the eve of the anniversary of the nation's independence from Spain.

She has chosen, on her first Independence Day as President, not to follow in her predecessor Joseph Estrada's footsteps.

She will lead today's traditional flag-raising rites not at the Aguinaldo Shrine in Cavite, but at the monument of national hero Jose Rizal in Manila.

Fraction

In her televised address, Ms Macapagal said that in celebrating their "recent gains" as a people, Filipinos should not forget the struggles their forefathers endured to win independence from colonizers.

"Our recent struggles are but a fraction of what our heroes had to endure in their fight for independence," she said.

"I call upon all Filipinos everywhere to help in rebuilding our nation toward greater peace, progress and prosperity," she said.

She said the struggle for independence must not be relegated to one chapter of history but "must continue today and every day of our lives until we are able to free all Filipinos from the oppression of poverty, armed conflict and vested interest."

She added: "In everything we do, let the genuine interest of our nation prevail."

Interesting times

Last Sunday, she said on the radio program of her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, that the theme of both this year's celebration and the rest of her term, was national unity.

Although the President yesterday avoided reference to the Abu Sayyaf, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez acknowledged one of the gravest crises of the four-month-old Macapagal administration.

"Many of the things that are happening today would be contradictions of (the aspiration for national unity) and this is precisely what this government is addressing," Golez told reporters.

Pablo Trillana III, chair of the National Historical Institute, said in his message that Independence Day was being celebrated this year in "interesting times" because of the crisis.

"For the past two weeks, an extremist group not only kidnapped individuals from Palawan, but also snatched a nation's peace. It will, unfortunately, take some time to patch up the shreds of that peace," Trillana said.

But, he added, "the Basilan situation, monstrous as it is, is not big enough to undermine the national will. We can stare the enemy down by confronting it without despair with, as Rizal advises in 'El Filibusterismo,' a persistence to endure."

Golez said the government was applying the "full force of the military and the police" while extending the hand of peace to legitimate rebels to persuade them to join the political mainstream.

"We still have these rogue bands in our society who probably are not thinking of the national dream and national purpose. They have their own depraved self-interest in mind," Golez said.

Aliens on paper only

In a speech to the Chinese-Filipino business club yesterday, the President, who recently signed the naturalization act into law, made a further commitment to the community.

She said she would set aside a budget from her discretionary fund so that the Solicitor General can start processing the application papers of Chinese nationals eligible for Filipino citizenship.

The President said that while many in the Chinese-Filipino community are already Filipinos at heart, they remain aliens on paper.

"I hope that when we celebrate Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day, you will all be Filipinos not only in your hearts but in your citizenship papers," she added.

She also told the Chinoys that "citizenship is earned."

"Citizenship is not hanging up your residence papers on the wall but living day to day as a true Filipino," she said.

"Citizenship is earned by fulfilling the obligations like voting, paying taxes, obeying the laws and if necessary, bearing arms and fighting for your country," the President said.

Descendant

Another group, the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industries Inc. (FFCCCII), held its own Independence Day dinner on Friday night at which the President announced a series of directives to benefit the Chinoy community.

She signed the Administrative Naturalization Law, which relaxes the requirements for native-born aliens to become full-fledged citizens.

Since she came to power, Ms Macapagal has wooed the Chinoy community, widely perceived to be supporters of the previous Estrada administration.

The President made a point of mentioning her husband, Jose Miguel Tuazon Arroyo, is descended from the Spanish-era Chinese trader Son-Tua, the ancestor of the Philippines' landed Tuazon clan.

Fireworks at 7

On Sunday, Ms Macapagal said she had put Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon in charge of today's celebrations.

"There is a parade so I made Dick Gordon chair because he has pizzazz. So the parade will be beautiful and not boring, and the theme is 'nation, unite'," she said.

Like the President, other senior officials are supposed to lead flag-raising rites at five other historic sites at 7 a.m. today.

The other venues are the Aguinaldo Shrine, the Pinaglabanan Memorial Shrine in San Juan, Barasoain Church in Malolos, Bulacan, the Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan City, and the Mausoleo de los Veteranos de la Revolucion at Manila's North Cemetery.

The highlight of the Rizal Park celebration is a military and civic parade with floats. There will also be the usual job fair and exhibits, including a display of military helicopters, a V150 boat, and an armed personnel carrier where children will be treated to free rides.

A 15-minute fireworks display is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the back of the Quirino Grandstand, followed by a variety show with show biz personalities at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Plaza in Rizal Park from 7:30 p.m. onward.

In Malate, organizers have planned an evening of street dancing and live band performances.

Mabini . . .

(From page A1)

pendence was not enough. For it was not only about being free. There had to be an organized system wherein independent Filipinos can properly develop their potentials as human beings and citizens.

A paraplegic, Mabini, nonetheless, wielded influence in the revolutionary movement. He was appointed adviser to Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo.

With better representation of Filipinos in mind, Mabini wrote a decree that changed the dictatorial government of Aguinaldo into a revolutionary one. This was done to ensure consultation with the local leaders and political reform that would provide better social conditions for the Filipinos.

The decree also provided for the creation of Congress that would later affirm the ratification of Philippine Independence.

On Aug. 1, 1898 Mabini wrote a document that ratified the Philippine Independence declared on June 12 that same year. About 200 town chiefs, representing their respective localities, signed the declaration by a way of showing the popular desire for independence. The participation of local officials affirmed the Filipinos' support for the government in achieving the aims of independence.

The June 12 declaration was signed almost exclusively by military men.

To Mabini, independence should be guided with reason, responsibility and strong convictions. It was the only way that the Filipino could achieve his potentials.

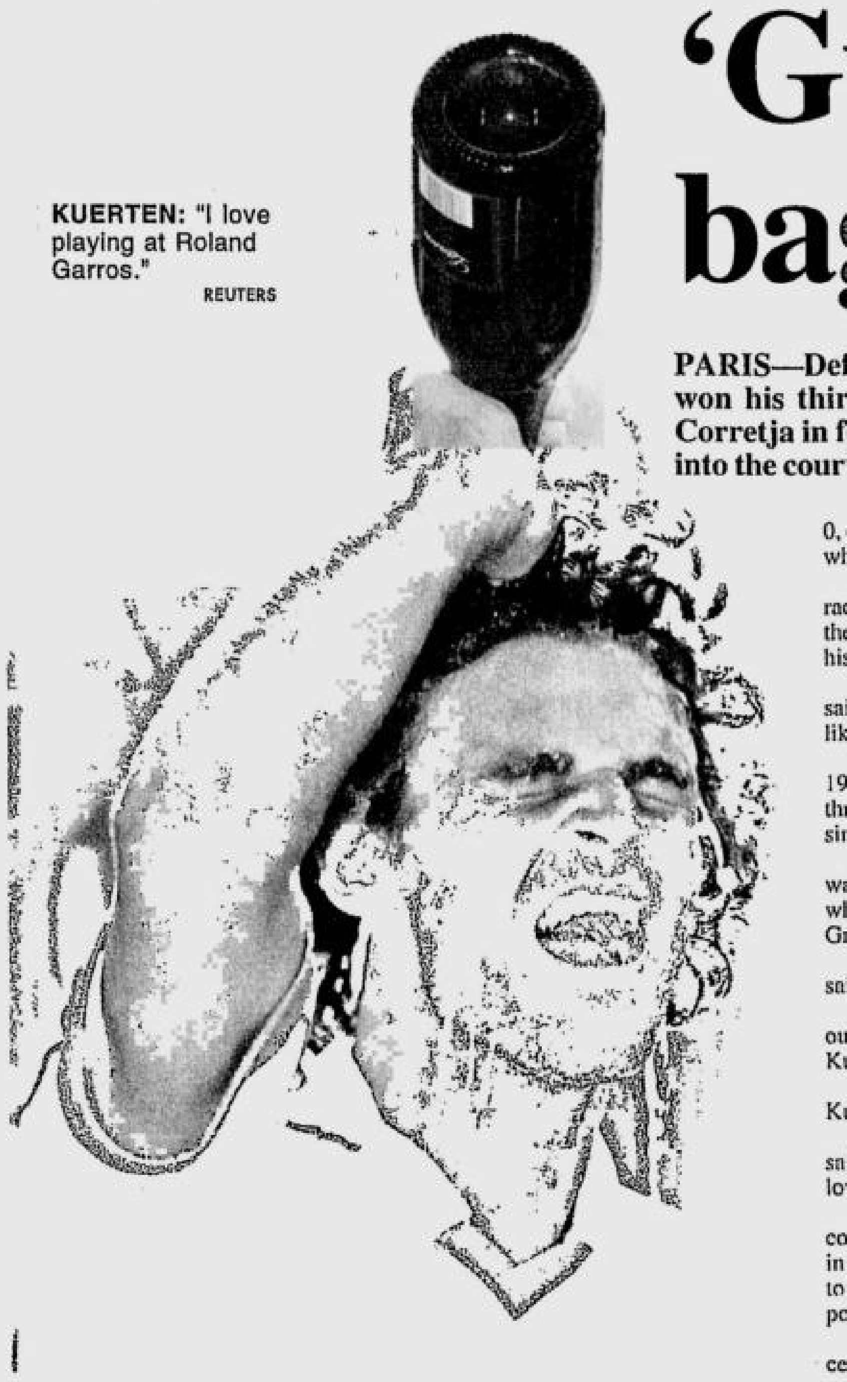
Decalogue

In his decalogue, he appealed to every man: "Thou shalt strive for the independence of thy country: for only thou cast have any real interest in her advancement and exaltation, because her independence constitutes thy own liberty; her advancement, thy perfection; and her exaltation, thy own glory and immortality."

Mabini was born a poor man but this had not stopped him from obtaining a degree in Law. He was already a practicing lawyer when he caught his paralysis in 1896. Despite his physical condition, Mabini remained an active political thinker and philosopher.

In 1897, he joined the revolution, which he served with his mind. On May 13, 1903 Mabini died. History judged him the "Brains of the Revolution."

'Guga' conquers Corretja, bags 3rd French Open title



KUERTEN: "I love playing at Roland Garros."
REUTERS

PARIS—Defending champion Gustavo Kuerten won his third French Open title, beating Alex Corretja in four sets Sunday and carving a heart into the court to thank his fans.

The top-seeded Brazilian won 6-7 (3), 7-5, 6-2, 6-0, closing the match on his fourth championship point when his opponent sent a forehand out.

Kuerten then drew a heart in the red clay with his racket, as he has done before at Roland Garros. He then flopped on his back inside the heart in tribute to his fans, some waving Brazilian flags.

"It was great feelings, it was a big fight," Kuerten said in his trademark broken English. "I was nervous like always."

Kuerten, the world's No. 1 player, won the title in 1997 and 2000 and is only the sixth man to capture three titles at Roland Garros. He is the first to do so since Mats Wilander earned his third in 1988.

"When I lost the third set I lost my game and he was too good for me in the fourth set," said Corretja, who was a runner-up in 1998 and was seeking his first Grand Slam title.

"On clay, (Kuerten) showed that he's the best," said the Spaniard.

Brazilian fans chanted "Gu-ga! Gu-ga!" throughout the match and began beating on drums as soon as Kuerten's victory was sealed.

"This year I'm going to speak to you in French," Kuerten said as he received the winner's trophy.

He congratulated Corretja for a great match and said, in French, "I love playing at Roland Garros, I love playing for you, thank you for supporting me."

The 24-year-old Brazilian is the first man to win consecutive French titles since Spain's Sergi Bruguera in 1993 and 1994. He is also the first man in 25 years to win at Roland Garros after being down a match point in an earlier round.

Kuerten lost the first set in blustery conditions on center court, setting up a first set point by sending a backhand volley into the net after dust blew into his eyes. He lost the set on a double fault.

Corretja, seeded 13th, blew a break point at 5-5 in the second set with a wide backhand, and Kuerten held serve to lead 6-5. He broke the Spaniard to take the second set.

Kuerten cruised through the remaining sets as the wind settled down, ending the 3-hour and 12-minute match with an eight-game winning streak. He surprised his opponent with a string of volley- shots, aces and forehand and backhand winners, across the court and down the line.

In the final game, Kuerten had three match points at 40-0. He blew the first by hitting an overhead smash into the net. On the second, he sent a backhand wide. On the third, he failed to capitalize on an overhead putaway.

Corretja blew an advantage with a double fault, then set up the final match point by hitting the ball into the net.

He showed increasing signs of frustration in the final set as his game unraveled and his opponent's groundstrokes grew more powerful. He spiked his racket several times, drawing jeers from the fans.

Kuerten won his first title at the French when he was ranked 66th in the world. Now he is at the summit of tennis.

But he was nearly undone in the fourth round when he saved a third-set match point against American qualifier Michael Russell. But Kuerten prevailed, wining in five sets.

He streaked through his next two matches, beating one of the top players on the tour, Juan Carlos Ferrero, in straight sets in the semifinals.

Kuerten has won 44 of his past 47 matches on clay. He has won 31 of his 34 clay court matches this year. He earned a winner's check of $590,000.

He won the Monte Carlo Masters Series in April and was runner-up to Ferrero at the Italian Open last month. He exited the German Open in the first round, losing to Max Mirnyi of Belarus. *AP*

Ana, Shark eye final slots

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—Shark Energy vs Giv Beauty Soap
5:30 p.m.—Ana Freezers vs Welcoat Paints

By June Navarro

ANA Freezers and Shark Energy Drink try to write off separate opponents today in a bid to earn championship slots in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Failing on their first try though armed with a twice-to-beat incentive, the Freezer Makers would leave no stone unturned in their 5:30 p.m. battle against Welcoat Paints.

The Paintmasters drubbed the Rudy Mendoza-owned Ana Freezers, 72-53, last week, but the Freezer Makers vowed to avenge the defeat and clinch a finals berth.

"I have so much respect for Welcoat but the boys are eager to bounce back and I think that will spell the difference," said Mendoza, also Ana's bench tactician.

Dondon Mendoza, Roland Pascual and Ariel Capus will go all-out against the Paintmasters' menacing frontline composed of Yancy De Ocampo, Brixter Encarnacion and Allen Patrimonio.

Shark Energy won't allow its outstanding record in the eliminations go into waste as the Powerboosters attempt to recover lost ground against Giv Beauty Soap in the opener.

Estes rules 'Jude'

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—Bob Estes survived with an even-par 71 Sunday to finish off a wire-to-wire victory in the St. Jude Classic for his second win on the PGA Tour, holding off Bernhard Langer by a stroke.

Estes started the day with a three-stroke lead over John Daly and Scott McCarron and was up by four through 13 holes. Then, the man who opened the tournament with a course-tying 61 made it interesting as he bogeyed two straight holes to trim his lead to just a stroke.

He finished off his first victory since the 1994 Texas Open with tough par saves on Nos. 16 and 17 to pick up the biggest check of his career, $ 630,000. He finished with a 17-under 267 total.

Langer (66) finished second, while Tom Lehman (66) and McCarron (72) were tied for third at 269. Two-time U.S. Open champion Curtis Strange (69), Paul Goydos (68) and Daly (73) were all at 270.

Daly, who last won at the 1995 British Open, had his best round in years on Saturday with a 63. *AP*

MJC RACES

5-day sked nets ₱114M

THE JUST-CONCLUDED five-day racing festival at the San Lazaro Hippodrome netted the Manila Jockey Club Inc. a hefty gross sales of more than P114.3 million.

This was announced yeterday by MJCI president Alfonso R. Reyno Jr. who also outlined MJCI's plans for the coming Gran Copa de Manila," one of local racing's biggest racing festivals slated on June 24.

"We would like to express our tremendous gratitude to all of our loyal patrons for their continuing support to our races and programs. Likewise, we would like to thank the industry's direct players—the horse owners, jockeys, trainers and race officials—without whose indispensable work and cooperation, MJCI would not have managed to come up with such excellent programs,'' Reyno said.

Owners of winning horses (Bracket II-winners' group) in last week's card received guaranteed gross prizes of P114,465.75 each.

Highlight of the upcoming 22nd Gran Copa de Manila festivities would be the running of the two division Gran Copa de Manila Stakes Races, similar 1,900-meter races carrying a total guaranteed pot of P600,000 and P300,000, respectively.

Among the horses nominated for the Division I event are Batangas Entry, Gold Edition, High Roller, Materiales Fuertes, Project Genesis, Staunch Ally, Super Sharp and Wind Blown.

Thirteen hopefuls have also been nominated for the Division II of the featured Gran Copa. They are Bull Rider, District Three, Golden Eagle, Gutmoore, Holy King, Hyperbid, My Preperido, Noble Regent, Palace Hero, Power Drive, Sparkling Sky, Sis Boom Bah and Speed Goddess

The final day of declaration for the event is set for tomorrow, Wednesday, at the MJCI handicapping department.

Meanwhile, a total of 549 horses have been listed to compete in the MJCI Special Races scheduled for the Gran Copa racing week (June 20 to 24).

PSC finds evidence against karate head

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission has found sufficient evidence to file charges of malversation and falsification of documents against karatedo head Eduardo Ponce.

PSC Chair Carlos Tuason said the ad hoc committee formed to investigate the matter recommended that the case be brought to the attention of the Office of the Solicitor General.

PSC legal counsel Dole Llanto, Manny Ibay and Ariel Paredes spearheaded the three-man investigative committee.

The case stemmed from the accusations of Philippine Karatedo Federation secretary general Joey Veguillas, who blew the whistle on Ponce's irregularities.

Tuason said the PKF would be off the hook but would be suspended from receiving PSC's financial assistance until the issue is settled.

In another development, Manila Regionall Trial Court Judge Artemio Tipon yesterday ordered Brigido Dulay, counsel for Gonzalo Puyat's group, to explain within 10 days why the people who participated in the Basketball Association of the Philippines elections on June 7 should not be cited for contempt.

AIR C
Formula
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RALF'S BIG MOMENT
Ralf Schumacher (middle) of Germany is doused with champagne by his brother Michael (left) and Mika Hakkinen after winning the Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal Sunday. Ralf (inset) outdrove the older, more famous Michael in the event, marking the first time that brothers finished 1-2 in 51 years of F1 racing.
AP

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled By Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: WNBA—L.A Sparks vs Houston Comets at 8 a.m. (r – 8 p.m.) on ESPN
NBA Finals Game 3— Lakers vs Sixers at 5:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN
BOXING Laila Ali vs Jacqui Frazier at 9 p.m. (r) on IBC 13
GOLF: PGA Fedex St. Jude Classic, Second Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
U.S. Open Golf Championship Preview #1 at 10:30 p.m. on ESPN
TENNIS: Wimbledon Library Films—Dare to Dream at 7 a.m. (r), The Glory Years at 8 p.m. on Star Sports
MOTOR SPORTS: Motorsport Asia at 5 p.m. (r) on ESPN
SBK World Superbikes Championship 2001 at 9 p.m. on Star Sports
SNOOKER: Premier Snooker League 2001 at 2 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Pepon scores anew

CARMONA,Cavite—Pepon Marave of Demvel's Enterprises drew inspiration from the all-out support of his teammates to claim his second title, even as ARC-Tony Kart ruled the team competition in the fifth leg of the Shell Super Karting Championships at the Carmona Racing Circuit.

Marave, a veteran campaigner competing with the enthusiasm of a youthful newcomer, held off a furious rally by long-time rival and defending champion Philip Alvendia of Kart 1 to rule the 15-lap final race of the Formula Super A category.

The win, coupled with the disastrous sixth-place finish of two-time winner and series leader Jeff Cabalinan and the continued absence of runner-up Jess Garcia, revived Marave's hopes for the prestigious "Karter of the Year" plum in this annual series sponsored by Bridgestone, Shell Citibank Mastercard, Match Box/Hot Wheels, Nokia, Eastway Racing and Coca-Cola.

"It's a good race, and I'm very fortunate to win top honors for the second time this year," said Marave, who also dominated the second leg last March 18.

Davies ends long slump

ROCHESTER, New York —Ending the worst slump of her career, Laura Davies shot a 2-over-par 74 at the Rochester International on Sunday to capture her 20th victory in 14 years on the LPGA Tour.

"This is probably the most important victory of my entire career," said Davies, who had missed the cut in four of her past five tournaments.

₱5-M Kalayaan derby starts today

DAY One of the Araw Ng Kalayaan 7-Cock Derby, Mandaluyong Coliseum's richest derby so far offering P5 million to the top winners, will blast off at 6 tonight.

More than 45 fights are on tap in the event sponsored by Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

Those who wish to join may enlist on any of the remaining elimination dates: June 14, 16, 19, 21 and 23. A maximum of 40 entries will be accommodated per elimination day. All qualifiers will advance to the finals on June 26.

Among the participants are Tonette Luzuriaga, Edward Magaspac, Pepito Ngo, Tony Tan, Dicky Lim, Nelson Uy, Capt. Ben Rodriguez, William Go, Engr. Nestor Mercado, Leo Sanga, Tinoy Gonzales, Richie Luna, Mike Sablan, Pol Garde, Warlito Bereber and Berting Gaffer.

The champions alone are set to receive a whopping P3 million while P1.5 million is allotted to any five points, P200,000 to the runners-up, P250,000 to the handler and P50,000 to the gaffer. Entry fee is only P20,000.

Also seeing action are upcoming cockers and breeders from Cebu, Davao, Bacolod, Zamboanga, Pampanga, Zambales, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Rizal, Bulacan, Cavite and Quezon.

Interested parties may contact 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341.

Lakers grab . . .

(From page A20)

Bryant shot just 3-for-14 in the second half, but the damage he did in the second quarter proved to be more important. He hit eight straight shots - all but two of them from the perimeter - to give the Lakers a lead that slowly dwindled the rest of the way but never got lower than one point.

O'Neal had 30 points, 12 rebounds and four blocks, and Horry finished with 15 points.

Iverson had 35 points for Philadelphia, including 21 in the fourth quarter, while Dikembe Mutombo added 23 points and 12 rebounds and Eric Snow scored 14 points.

With the Lakers leading 86-84 with 2:21 left, O'Neal backed into Mutombo and was called for his sixth foul. Iverson went to the foul line 15 seconds later and made just one of two, causing the crowd to groan as they no doubt had flashbacks to Philadelphia's 10 missed free throws in the fourth quarter of Game 2.

A crowd of more than 1,000 booed the Lakers' team bus as it arrived at First Union Center less than two hours before tipoff, and Bryant bounded off the bus wearing sky blue sweats and a smile.

He grew up in nearby Lower Merion, Pennsylvania, but has not been a fan favorite in Philly.

The crowd booed him louder than any of the other Lakers during pregame introductions, and he was the object of a derisive chant just 17 seconds into the game.

"He still considers this a place that he has friends, and there's going to be a tremendous amount of attention paid to him," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said before the game.

Bryant personified calm and cool as he started finding his stroke early in the second quarter. *AP*

PBAP bet seizes singles top spot

NATIONAL bowler Liza del Rosario of PBAP carded a four-game series of 825 pinfalls Sunday to grab the class O singles lead in the Boysen-PBC International Open 2001 championships at the Green Valley lanes in Pasig City.

Del Rosario, who finished 17 pins ahead of Eve Saquing and 21 in front of veteran Jojo Canare, also shared the doubles' lead with fellow PBAP-Bowlmart star Liza Clutario at 851.

Del Rosario carded 400 (195-205) but Clutario was more impressive with 451 (262-189).

Other early frontrunners in the kegfest which also serves as a qualifying round for the Philippine leg of the Asian Bowling Tour sponsored by ESPN are:

Men's team—Arnold Lecaros, Benny Dytoc, Carlo Mansilungan, RP (1281), Open; Nap Ng, Jason Go, Donald Lim, Dragons (1160), Class A; Alex Vergara, Freddie Alcaraz, Nomer Gozun, AMBA (1115), Class B.

Ladies' team—Arianne Cerdeña, Liza Clutario, Jojo Canare, RP (1217), Open' Joylyn Yambao, Ditas Red, Kat Cruz, TBAM-PRIMA (1105), Class A; Lorey Chan, Janie Lim, Lorraine Go, MTBA 963), Class B.

Men's doubles—Arnold Lecaros-Tyrone Ongpauco, TBAM (973), Open; Sammy S. Sy-Nilo Penado, TCBA (820), Class A; Marc Hechanova-Robert Gonzales, TBAM (746), Class B.

Ladies' doubles—Eve Saquing-Carmen Talosig, TBAM (832), Class A; Susan San Diego-Nelia Santos, PBA (705), Class B.

Men's singles—Frederick Ong, PBAP (946), Open; Nilo Penado, TCBA (813), Class A; Jeffrey Panopio, SLETBA (764), Class B.

Ladies' singles—Cecile Cuesta, SJBA (755), Class A; Ellen Leuterio, MBA (713), Class B.

Men's all-events—Benny Dytoc, PBAP (1729), Open; Nilo Penado, TCBA (1508), Class A; Jeffrey Panopio, SLETBA (1476), Class B.

Ladies' all-events—Eve Saquing, TBAM (1605), Open; Rory Villena, PBAP (1521), Class A; Lorna Encarnacion, MBA (1344), Class B.

The two-week tourney is organized by the Philippine Bowling Congress and sponsored by Boysen Paints.

PBC president Steve Hontiveros (extreme right) leads the guests in making the ceremonial roll during the opening of the Boysen-PBC International Open 2001. Also shown, from right, are POC president Celso Dayrit and Boysen's Gerry Canuday.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Peñalosa vs Tokuyama Sept. 24

LAWYER Rudy Salud, manager of WBC international super flyweight champion Gerry Peñalosa, said yesterday that the mandatory title shot at world champion Masamori Tokuyama will take place in the Japanese port city of Yokohoma on Sept. 24. Salud added that WBC president Jose Sulaiman had faxed him a letter, saying he was "very happy to see that you (Salud) have finally reached an agreement for Peñalosa.

HORRY (5) is triple-teamed by (from left) Eric Snow, Jumaine Jones and Raja Bell in the final seconds of Game 3. AP

Lakers grab 2-1 lead

Bryant, Horry spark 96-91 win over Sixers

PHILADELPHIA —Kobe Bryant silenced the fans who gave him a rude welcome, and Robert Horry made sure they went home angry.

Bryant scored 32 points, half of them in the second quarter when he gave the Lakers the lead for good, and Los Angeles got 12 fourth-quarter points from Horry to hold off the Philadelphia 76ers 96-91 Sunday night.

In yet another thrilling game in this compelling and entertaining series, the Lakers overcame Shaquille O'Neal fouling out with 2:21 left and took a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven NBA Finals.

Bryant, O'Neal and Horry accounted for 77 of the Lakers' 96 points, with Horry scoring their final seven, including a key 3-pointer with 47 seconds left.

"That's what teammates are for," Bryant said. "Robert came in and did an excellent job. He hit a humongous shot for us."

The 76ers trailed from the second quarter on and missed their one and only chance to tie the game when Iverson could make only one of two free throws with 2:06 left. They pulled within one point before Horry hit the 3-pointer from the corner for a 92-88 lead.

Iverson missed a 3-pointer with 38 seconds left and Raja Bell missed one six seconds later, but Tyronn Lue fouled Iverson on a 3 and he made all three free throws to cut the Lakers' lead to 92-91 with 27.6 seconds left.

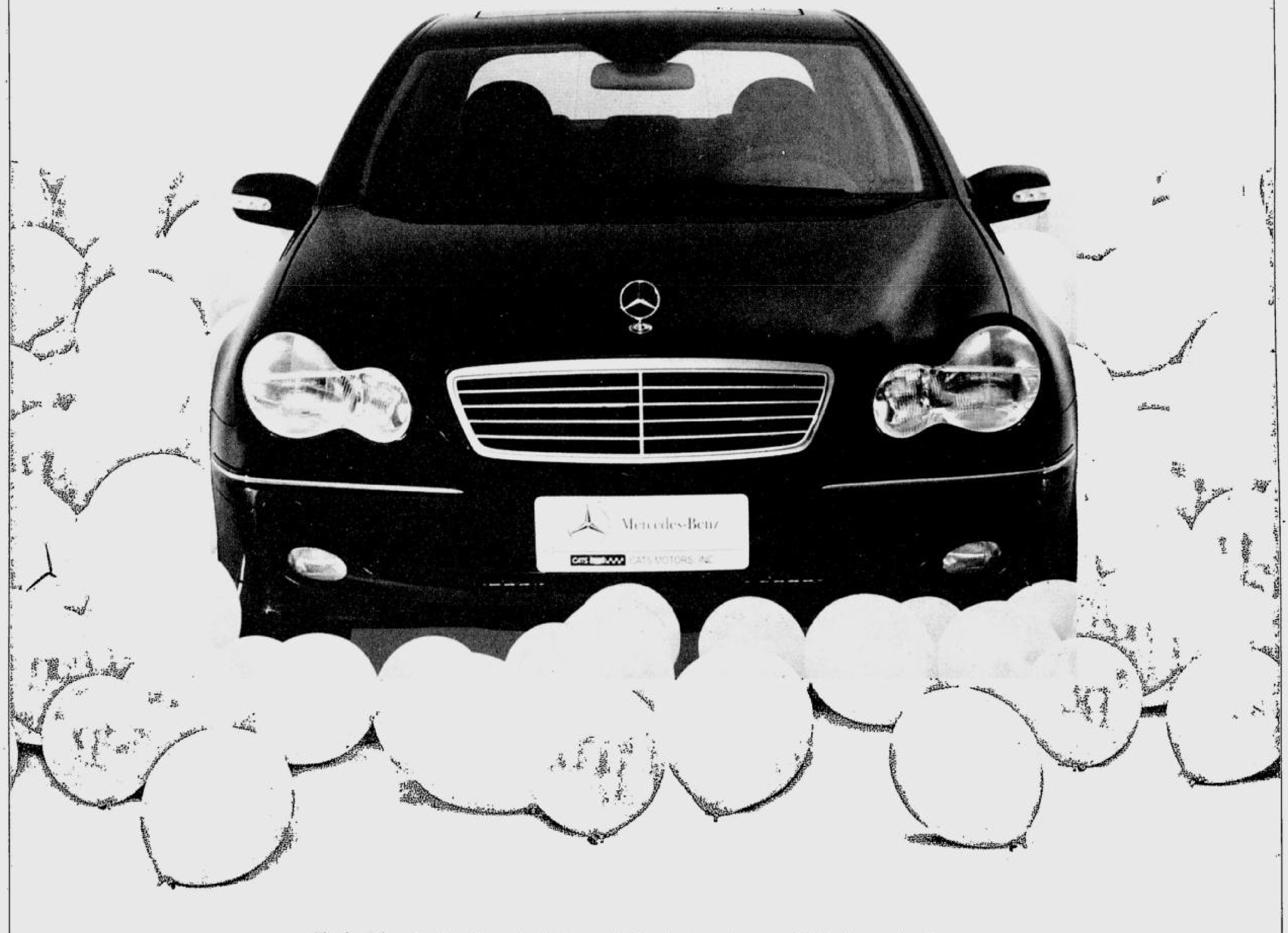
Horry made two from the line with 21.3 left for a 94-91 lead, and the 76ers took their final timeout.

Iverson drove to the basket and had to attempt a high-arching shot over the outstretched arm of Bryant. It missed, Horry was fouled on the rebound and made both shots to wrap up the victory.

Game 4 is Wednesday night (Thursday morning in Manila). The Sixers will also host Game 5 on Friday night (Saturday morning in Manila).

LAKERS/ A19

Ruby Ann Castillo is one lucky girl.



She's 14, a texter from Isabela, and the lucky winner of this Mercedes-Benz.
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■ 3 men in 'barong' and gloves beat up welder to death A22
■ NBI cited for solution of QC slays A22

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

MJ backers get death threats from 'rebels'

BY JEROME ANING

ABOUT 60 barangay chairs from Manila's 6th district yesterday morning went to the city police headquarters to report death threats they said they received from the communist hit squad Alex Boncayao Brigade a week before the May 14 elections.

The barangay leaders, led by the district's Liga ng mga Barangay chair Carlos Castañeda, claimed the threats were meant to discourage them from supporting congressman-elect Mark Jimenez, who is facing an extradition case.

"We are humble servants of the people, not class enemies who are the targets of the ABB," Castañeda said.

The barangay leaders filed their complaint at the Western Police District's general assignments section, which promised to investigate the alleged threats.

The barangay leaders said they do not believe that the threats, which were in the form of letters and phone calls, came from the ABB.

Castañeda said it was "not the style" of the ABB to issue multiple death threats to barangay officials merely because they were backing a congressional candidate.

"Logically, the people who made these threats must be political oppo-

MJ BACKERS/ A22

Vizconde judge robbed

BY JEROME ANING

THIEVES broke into the car of Parañaque Judge Amelita Tolentino at the Our Lady of Remedios Church in Malate, Manila on Sunday morning and stole P84,000 in cash and valuables.

Tolentino, 56, a resident of BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City, told Western Police District Station 9 that the theft happened while she and a niece were hearing Mass at the church on MH Del Pilar about 7 p.m.

Tolentino is the presiding judge of Parañaque Regional Trial Court Branch 274, where the celebrated Vizconde massacre case was tried. She sentenced to life a former senator's son and six other scions of prominent families for killing the wife and two daughters of Lauro Vizconde in 1991.

Tolentino told police that she lost four Nokia cell phones worth P56,000, a Parker ballpen, driving shoes, lunchbox, several law books, a wallet and P4,500 and $30 in cash, among others.

PO1 Aldrin Bacho of WPD Station 9 said that after Tolentino and her niece heard Mass, they proceeded to the church compound where she had parked her bluish-green Mazda 323 (USC-619). They found out their car door had been forced open.

BANNERS AND BRIDGES
The Chinese-Filipino Business Club put up Philippine flags on five bridges in Manila as its contribution to the celebration of Independence Day today.

GMA 7 strafed

THE NEW GMA 7 building in Quezon City was strafed over the weekend.

Investigators from the Kamuning police station said they were still trying to find out who fired at the GMA building at the corner of Edsa and Timog Avenue, Supt. Juan Adan, Kamuning police station chief, said in a report.

The strafing shattered the glass panel of a window on the seventh floor, which is still unoccupied, Adan said.

He said GMA safety personnel discovered the strafing at 8:15 a.m. Sunday when they saw a bullet hole in the glass panel of a window in the eastern portion of the seventh floor.

"They later recovered a partially deformed bullet of unknown caliber several meters away from the affected glass panel," Adan said.

According to initial investigation, the gunman could have been standing on the nearby Kamuning flyover, Adan said. *Philip C. Tubeza*

90-minute 'people's parade'

UNLIKE in previous years when the June 12 parade dragged on for several hours, today's Independence Day parade will be limited to 90 minutes.

And the floats will be different, according to Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon, who heads the inter-agency committee for the Independence Day "people's parade."

"Our parade must reflect the colors of the islands and the soul of our people," Gordon said.

"This year's celebration marks the start of a 'century of rebirth' for the nation under the leadership of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," he said. "This is our first Independence Day celebration in the new millennium. Let us make it a milestone on our road back to greatness."

The theme of this year's celebration is

90-MINUTE/A22

Wazzzzup?

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Cowboy Grill Brgy Almanza, Las Piñas	GOALKEYS KOOL JACKS	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 801.7644
Cowboy Grill 1190 Arquiza St., Malate	MUSIC CIRCUIT STAY TUNED/CITY BORN	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill 431 Remedios St., Malate	SERSIDE PUZZLES	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
Cowboy Grill Novaliches Q.C	HOMOSAPIENS HIMIG	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 936.9757
DOWNTOWN Music Bar & Restaurant	MOONSTRUCKS (RETRO NIGHT)	P 250 CONSUMABLE ☎ 373.3333
KAMPO 2088 #47 West Avenue Q.C.	HEAT OF D' NIGHT L.O.C/FAT SESSION	P 200 CONSUMABLE 373.5110/373.7181
Examiner's Lite n' Live #52 Examiner St. Q.C.	SENSATION 7TH SOUL	P 150 CONSUMABLE 373.2221/373.7183
Music Warehouse In front of Central Market	GROOVE BERNARDO CARPIO	NO ENTRANCE FEE 735.1280/735.1405
Padi's Point Mindave Mindanao Ave. cor. Congt., Q.C.	MULATTO	SIDE A JUNE 14/453.0080
Tia Maria's Remedios cor. Carolina	BLIZZARD MIX JAM	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 522.0429
Tropical Forest Cafe · Grill · Restaurant	MARMALADE	LUNCH SPECIAL P 195/3-COURSE MEAL
OTHER PLACES		
Ka Freddie Music Restaurant Marcos Highway, Antipolo	JAMES CAÑEJA ANTOINETTE	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 677.0795
Partyline San Fernando, Pampanga	ROCK NYT	PAROKYA NI EDGAR JULY 7 /(045) 9613360

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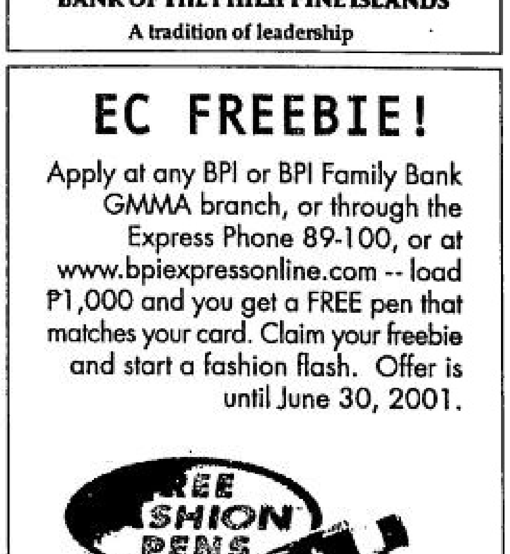

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1186, Series of 2001

Driver killed by coworker he suspended from group

PEDICAB driver Arnulfo M. Verian, 39, was stabbed dead Sunday in Quezon City by another driver whom he had suspended from their association due to an unpaid loan.

Verian, of 1 Kalayaan B. Barangay Batasan Hills, did not make it alive to the hospital after Noli A. Turawan, 29, of 43 Kasipagan Gulod Extension, Barangay Batasan Hills, Quezon City, allegedly stabbed him in the stomach, said investigator SPO1 Ramon Fernandez, of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit.

Verian was the president of the New Kalayaan Pedicab Operators and Drivers Association (NKPODA) and he suspended Turawan because the latter had overdue loans.

Fernandez said Verian was standing outside his house when Turawan struck at 7:15 p.m. Sunday.

Turawan allegedly approached Verian and suddenly pulled out a fan knife.

Turawan then lunged at Verian, who was not able to parry the blow, Fernandez said. Turawan fled.

Philip C. Tubeza

Caloocan carpenter slain trying to collect debt

By Christian V. Esguerra

A CARPENTER on Sunday was stabbed dead and his brother was seriously injured when they tried to collect a P150 debt from a worker in Caloocan City.

Edgardo Canete, of San Vicente Ferrer, Barangay Camarin, Caloocan, died about 5 p.m. Sunday from a stab wound in the chest inflicted by Jupiterly Lincuna, 23, of Bagong Silang, Caloocan, said investigator PO3 Nilo Padulaga.

Canete's brother Fidel suffered a stab wound in the chest when he tried to get back at Lincuna, police said.

Investigation showed that Canete and his wife Babylee went to Lincuna's house to ask him to pay his much delayed P150 debt. When they did not find Lincuna, the couple decided to return home, police said.

As they were walking along Mangga Street near the San Vicente Ferrer Chapel, Canete and his wife chanced upon Lincuna, who refused to pay his debt, police said.

Tempers flared and Canete and Lincuna, both armed with fan knives, lunged at each other in front of Canete's horrified wife, police said.

Lincuna managed to stab Canete in the chest, police said. Canete died instantly from the stab wound.

When Canete's brother Fidel learned what happened, he and Canete's son Emarvic stormed Lincuna's house. They were armed with a knife and a slingshot, police said.

Fidel hit Lincuna in the chin with the slingshot, but Lincuna managed to grab a knife and stabbed Fidel in the chest, police said.

Residents and members of the Caloocan Police Community Precinct 13 arrested Lincuna who is now detained at the Caloocan Police Station 1.

Drug suspect shot dead

By Christian V. Esguerra

AN ALLEGED drug addict was gunned down Sunday while trying to sell his bicycle to two men in Caloocan City.

Diony Vasquez, 30, died when the unidentified men, who were said to be interested in buying his bicycle, shot him in the back of the head about 11 a.m., said SPO2 Roland Mendoza.

Vasquez's relatives believed that he was killed when he and the two men failed to agree on the terms of the sale.

After the shooting, witnesses saw the two men leaving the scene with Vasquez's bicycle, police said.

The victim's uncle, Romulo Doctolero, told police his nephew went to his house on Atimoya Street to look for a buyer for his bicycle.

Vasquez, said to have been a known drug addict in their area, told Doctolero he desperately needed money for his pregnant wife, according to police.

Three hours later, witnesses Richie Pagayan and Antonio Juan told police they saw Vasquez arguing with one of the two men.

Minutes after, Pagayan and Juan heard a gunshot. When they went to the place where they thought the shot was fired, they saw Vasquez on the pavement with blood dripping from a wound in his head, police said.

Pagayan and Juan then saw two men fleeing the area with the bicycle, police said.

Members of the Caloocan Police Station Investigation and Intelligence Bureau are tracking down the two suspects.

65-year-old accused of rape

A 65-YEAR-OLD market vendor was accused of sexually molesting his 14-year-old granddaughter thrice in Rodriguez, Rizal.

Police arrested the vendor, a resident of Sitio Macupang, Barangay Mascap, on Sunday afternoon after rape charges were filed against him by his granddaughter, a grade six pupil.

SPO1 Virgilio San Jose, case investigator, said the alleged sexual assaults happened three times in May.

The girl told police that when the other members of the household were asleep at night, her grandfather would slip into the bedroom and force himself on her.

The girl said her grandfather threatened to kill her with a gun if she made any noise.

Arresting officers discovered in the old man's possession a homemade .38 revolver with six live bullets. The vendor is detained at Rodriguez jail.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, June 12 2000
10th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Cor 1:18-22
Gospel: Mt 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt has lost its strength, how can it be made salty again? It has become useless. It can only be thrown away and people will trample on it.

You are the light of the world. A city built on a mountain cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and covers it; instead it is put on a lamp stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before others, so that they may see the good you do and praise your Father in heaven."

Commentary

In today's gospel reading Jesus addresses us directly as the New Israel. You are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world! You are the people of God. At the same time he urges us to assert ourselves as such. The gifts we have are not there for ourselves alone. We have to share what has been given to us so that the world may have wisdom and light. It is a call to action. Jesus invites us to play our unique role in bringing about the kingdom and with it a new and better world.

Father, we thank you for having chosen us to be your messengers in the world. Grant that we may live in obedience to this call as instruments of peace.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Concepts in *res judicata*— The doctrine of *res judicata* applies to both judicial and quasi-judicial proceedings. The doctrine actually embraces 2 concepts: the first is bar by prior judgment under paragraph (b) of Rule 39, Section 47, and the second is conclusiveness of judgment under paragraph c thereof. In the present case, the second concept—conclusiveness of judgment—applies. The said concept is explained in this manner: "A fact or question which was an issue in a former suit and was there judicially passed upon and determined by a court of competent jurisdiction, is conclusively settled by the judgment therein as far as the parties to that action and persons in privity with them are concerned and cannot be again litigated in any future action between such parties or their privies, in the same court or any other court of concurrent jurisdiction on either the same or different cause of action, while the judgment remains unreversed by proper authority. It has been held that in order that a judgment in one action can be conclusive as to a particular matter in another action between the same parties or their privies, it is essential that the issue be identical. If a particular point of question is in issue in the second action, and the judgment will depend on the determination of that particular point or question, a former judgment between the same parties or their privies will be final and conclusive in the second if that same point or question was in issue and adjudicated in the first suit. xxx" [Citations omitted.] [Justice Kapunan, First Division, Ocho v. Carlos, G.R. No. 137908, November 22, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

NBI cited for solution of QC slays

AN ANTI-CRIME group yesterday cited National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco and 11 NBI agents in the bureau's intelligence and special operations division for their speedy solution of the Lozada-Uzon killings in Quezon City last month.

The Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption gave Wycoco and his agents plaques and certificates of recognition.

The killings caused public uproar after it was learned that 10 members of the Philippine National Police's intelligence operations division and intelligence group killed Fernando Lozada and Marianne Uson by mistake. The policemen had mistaken them for members of a kidnapping gang.

Lozada's daughter Clarissa Frances was also injured when the policemen strafed Lozada's car in Quezon City on May 17.

The NBI later tagged and arrested the 10 policemen and charged them with double murder.

Present in the awarding of the plaques and certificates of recognition were VACC chair and president Dante Jimenez, vice president Lauro Vizconde and the families of Uson and Lozada.

Also given plaques and certifications of recognition were NBI-ISOD chief Oscar Embido and his agents Mario Minor, Carlo Vasquez, Noel Morales, Irvin Garcia, Lauro Nacis, David Alba, Orlando Navallo, Andrew Bacayan, Nemesio Rommel Austria and Dan Ebo.

3 men in 'barong' and gloves beat welder to death

By Philip C. Tubeza

"SORRY, missus, but your husband fooled my sister."

With these words, three *barong*-clad men taught Francisco G. Lecciones the last lesson in his life.

Lecciones, 42, a welder and resident of a slum on Gitna Kaingin Boulevard in Barangay Apolonio Samson in Quezon City, was beaten up dead in front of his wife after midnight yesterday, said investigator SPO1 Ramon Fernandez.

As Lecciones and his wife Elisa were about to go to sleep about 12:30 a.m. yesterday, the three men broke into their shanty, pressed a handgun to Elisa's head and blindfolded her, Fernandez said.

As one of the men held Elisa, the two others pinned down Francisco and began beating him up with a blunt object until he fell unconscious, said Fernandez of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit.

"*Pasensya na misis, niloko niya ang kapatid ko* (Sorry, missus, but your husband fooled my sister)," said the armed suspect to Elisa.

Lecciones' skull cracked open above his right ear as a result of the beating, police said. He died on the way to the Quezon City General Hospital about 3 a.m.

Though Elisa did not see clearly the suspects' faces because of the blindfold, she was able to tell police that the three men were tall, heavily built, and were wearing "barong and colored gloves."

Elisa told police that before she and her husband went to bed, she confronted Lecciones over his alleged extramarital affair.

She told police Lecciones did not tell her who the other woman was or where she lived.

Their squabble ended only after Francisco promised her he would stop seeing his mistress.

Lecciones' body was taken to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy, Fernandez said.

'Better shoemaker' stabbed dead by colleague

A SHOEMAKER on Sunday stabbed and seriously injured another shoemaker during an argument over who was the better craftsman, Makati police said yesterday.

Ruben Dalura, 28, is now in serious condition at the Ospital ng Makati after Marlito Babaiano stabbed him in the left armpit with a shoe-cutting knife, police said.

Investigation showed that Dalura and Babaiano were drinking Sunday night with other shoemakers in a slum in Barangay San Antonio.

The two men argued who was the better shoemaker between the two of them, said PO2 Reynaldo Juan, Makati City police investigator.

Irked by Dalura's boastfulness, Babaiano pulled out a shoe-cutting knife and stabbed him with it, police said.

Dalura was rushed to the hospital, and police were called to arrest Babaiano who is now detained at the Makati City police station headquarters.

Babaiano is facing frustrated homicide charges before the Makati City prosecutor's office. *Nelson F. Flores*

Military should not cover up Basilan incident

On Target

Ramon Tulfo

THE MILITARY high command had better be sure of its announcement that the slain men and those shot and wounded by government troops in Basilan were members of the notorious Abu Sayyaf and not innocent civilians.

Otherwise, the government would be in a worse fix if there were a cover-up. Basilan residents would lose whatever remaining faith they have in the government troops now operating in the island province.

If you ask me, the dead and wounded were not members of the Abu Sayyaf but innocent civilians. They were at the wrong place at the wrong time.

* * *

The government troops manning the checkpoint where the victims were intercepted were probably out to avenge the deaths of their comrades and vent their ire on the civilians passing by.

Many soldiers have been killed and wounded since the government launched a renewed campaign against the Abus following their attacks on Dos Palmas in Palawan and the Pearl Farm in Davao

The soldiers at the checkpoint probably thought every Moro was either an Abu Sayyaf member or sympathizer. As long as he was a Moro, he was a fair target for revenge, as the thinking of the soldiers probably went.

* * *

Atrocities committed by troops against civilians are common in areas where there are many casualties among soldiers. Any civilian becomes a victim of such atrocities on mere suspicion of sympathizing with the enemy. Such are the realities of war.

This happened during the Japanese Occupation when enemy soldiers picked civilians at random and shot them on-the-spot in retaliation for the deaths of their comrades in the hands of guerrillas. That's the reason why Filipino guerrillas became stronger because of the abuses committed by the Japanese against civilians

During the campaign against the Huks in the 1950s, many civilians sympathized with the communist rebels because government troops abused civilians.

The government would not want civilians sympathizing with the bandits just because of few abusive soldiers.

* * *

What should the government do to prevent civilians in Basilan from sympathizing with the bandits?

There should be a no-nonsense investigation of the incident. The soldiers who took part in shooting down the civilians should be punished swiftly. The punishment should be commensurate to their dastardly act.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines would be committing a very big mistake if it covered up the Basilan incident or downplayed the abusive act of the soldiers.

* * *

Why do I think the victims were innocent civilians and not Abus?

First, they were unarmed when the Army soldiers accosted them at the checkpoint. The victims were on board a passenger jeepney.

Reports that the victims were "suspicious looking men" were not enough reason to shoot them down. Would you kill a man just because he's ugly?

I don't buy the story that two of the suspects "tried to grab the firearms" of the soldiers while they were being taken to the 24th Special Forces headquarters. *Matagal nang kumita ang istoryang yan.* Policemen who got involved in extra judicial executions of notorious criminals had already used that alibi. I should know, I was once a police reporter.

The government should give a more believable story.

* * *

The Abu Sayyaf members are probably filling up their stomachs with gas from laughing at the government booboo. They probably are dancing with joy because they have won more sympathizers.

The government should make amends by admitting the mistake of its troops.

* * *

At the expense of being redundant, the incident would not have become a cause for celebration if the Philippine Marine Corps handled the situation.

Marine officers would not have tried to cover up the mistake of their men. They would have clapped the soldiers in the brig (jail) while awaiting court martial. And they would have apologized to the families of the victims.

That happened in Maguindanao last year when a Marine manning a checkpoint shot down a farmer whom he suspected of being a member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

* * *

This corner is endorsing the appointment of Miguel R. S. Cornejo, a prominent cardiologist, to the government-owned gaming firm, Pagcor.

Cornejo is seeking directorship at Pagcor to "continue my community service goals, specifically in support of projects and organizations, which help the government in ensuring the delivery of proper and adequate health services to the poor and the needy."

Cornejo, a colonel in the military reserve force, used to be Pagcor's medical consultant. As such, he regularly submitted project proposals, which would have assisted in delivering health care services to depressed areas in Metro Manila.

Unfortunately, Cornejo said his proposals were always shelved because he was not part of the board.

If Cornejo were appointed, it would be the first time a practicing physician would be a member of the Pagcor board.

90-minute 'people's parade'

(From page A21)

"Kalayaan 2001: Bayan, Magkaisa! Manguna!"

"It's time we reassumed our leadership in the region," said the tourism leader. "But to do that, we must first fix ourselves up, put our house in order."

This will also be shown in the floats, which will showcase three basic values: *kusang loob* (initiative), *malasakit* (concern) and *kapwa tao* (sense of community).

Gordon also wanted marching bands in the parade, noting that "bands were morale boosters for Filipino revolutionaries who took up arms against Spain. We need all the morale boosters we can get now so we could rise again."

Marching bands will take the field at Rizal Park ahead of the grand parade today

The parade will be the focus of the celebration, but there are other activities scheduled throughout the day that are as colorful and significant.

In the morning, there will be the traditional flag-raising and wreath-laying in six historical venues in Metro Manila and outlying provinces. President Macapagal will lead the ceremonies at Rizal Park.

Exhibits and fairs will give the park a fiesta air. At the central lagoon area, there will be a job fair organized by the Department of Labor and Employment. Nearby will be an agri-aqua exhibit hosted by the Department of Agriculture. Exotic flowers will be displayed at the Orchidarium Garden Show.

At the National Library lobby, there will be a science and technology exhibit. The Department of Interior and Local Government will give legal assistance and referrals, while the Department of Health will provide free medical consultation.

After sunset, bands of a different sort will perform in a rock concert beside the Quirino grandstand and set the tone for dancing in the streets.

The public will also be treated to a 15-minute fireworks display.

MJ backers get death . . .

(From page A21)

nents who want to thwart the victory of Jimenez," he said.

Jimenez won by a slim majority over Pablo Ocampo III of the Nationalist People's Coalition. He also beat Bienvenido Abante of the People Power Coalition.

Castañeda showed reporters the alleged ABB letters threatening them with death if they continued backing Jimenez's campaign. The letters were written on bond paper in black pentel pen and were placed in envelopes that were tied with black ribbons.

The head of the league said they decided to report the threats following several "violent incidents" which they attributed to the Ocampo camp, including one incident in May when Jimenez supporters putting up campaign materials were beaten up by alleged Ocampo supporters.

The barangay leaders said their complaint about the alleged death threats was also a response to the recent rally of Ocampo supporters from Sta. Ana and Sta. Mesa whom they claimed "misrepresented" themselves as members of the civil society.

The protesters, who picketed the Department of Justice, called for Jimenez's arrest and extradition to the United States.

Jimenez is accused of making illegal campaign contributions in Florida.

Ocampo had also filed a disqualification case against Jimenez.

During the May 14 elections, Jimenez, a businessman and newspaper publisher, won by a few thousand votes over Ocampo.

When asked why barangay chairs in District 6 were taking sides in the Ocampo-Jimenez political feud instead of being non-partisan, Castañeda replied, "We have the right to choose a candidate whom we think would do good for our district."

Four Jimenez supporters who filed a case against Ocampo's other children, Bambi and Jeff, and other Ocampo supporters said they want the case upgraded to grave threats, frustrated murder and kidnapping.

The Jimenez supporters—Norman David, August Puson, Ramil Silvino and Carmelo Alfaro—said they were beaten up with "blunt objects" and were even wounded with knives.

David claimed he was brought inside the Ocampo residential compound and threatened by the Ocampo siblings.

BARANGAY chair Leonardo de los Santos shows threatening letter with black ribbon that he received. JESS YUSON

Japanese donation

IN yesterday's story, "Ayala donates P4M equipment for La Mesa restoration work," credit should have gone to the Japanese government for the donation.

"We would like to point out that the Ayala Foundation merely invited officials of the Japanese embassy in the Philippines to look into the merits of the La Mesa Reforestation Project," Ayala Foundation executive director Aurora Tolentino said in a letter to the Inquirer.

The Japanese government remains the biggest donor to Philippine development projects, she added.

Espiritu, 89

FILOMENA Bartolome-Espiritu, of Malanday, Valenzuela City, died on June 7 at the age of 89.

She is survived by her children Puring, Luz, Ely, Norma, Mercy, Rey and Bernard.

Her remains lie at the Loyola Memorial Chapels on Edsa in Guadalupe, Makati City.

Burial will be on Thursday, June 14, at 9 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

Tricycle man hunted

POLICE yesterday started looking for an 18-year-old tricycle driver accused of raping a 14-year-old girl in Makati City last week.

Police said Joel Ivan Lucero, a resident of Pasong Tirad Street in Barangay Tejeros, Makati City, was identified by the girl as the man who raped her thrice on June 8 in an abandoned building along Ocampo Street in Barangay La Paz.

Police said the girl was waiting for a tricycle ride home and boarded Lucero's tricycle. *Nelson F. Flores*

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6	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
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11	DOLBY SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
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5	DOLBY DIGITAL	GET OVER IT
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PEARL HARBOR
7	DOLBY SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
8	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
11	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820960

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5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SPOT
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4	DOLBY SURROUND	GET OVER IT
5	DOLBY SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
7	DTS	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	PEARL HARBOR
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
10	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TRAFFIC
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5	ULTRA SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PEARL HARBOR
9	ULTRA SURROUND	SPOT
10	ULTRA SURROUND	GET OVER IT

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2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE REPLICANT
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	GET OVER IT

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	ULTRA SURROUND	VALENTINE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	15 MINUTES
6	ULTRA SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
7	DOLBY SURROUND	HEAD OVER HEELS

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2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	CUT AWAY
5	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	TRAFFIC

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2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BUHAY KAMAO

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3	
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8	LABRADOR
9	ALAS DOSE

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2	BUHAY KAMAO
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4	LABRADOR
5 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
6	HEAD OVER HEELS
7 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
8	GET OVER IT

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2	BUHAY KAMAO
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5	SPOT

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3	LABRADOR
4	THE REPLICANT
5	GET OVER IT
6	KAMASUTRA

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2	THE REPLICANT
3	PEARL HARBOR
4	
5	

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2	ALAS DOSE
3 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS

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3 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
4	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Llanas Cinema
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2	MY WIFE LOVER
3	BUHAY KAMAO
4 (DTS)	THE REPLICANT

Llanas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545 7202

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2	ALAS DOSE
3 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	KAMASUTRA
5	CUT- AWAY

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

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2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	KAMASUTRA

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TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
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ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
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STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
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CINEMA-14	GET OVER IT
CINEMA-15	HEAD OVER HEELS
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CINEMA-3	CLOSED
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CINEMA-1	GET OVER IT
CINEMA-2	SPOT
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CINEMA-6	PEARL HARBOR
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(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	BAIT
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(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	SWEET NOVEMBER
CINEMA-2	MASARAP HABANG MAINIT
CINEMA-4	WANTED G.R.O.

Coney . . .

(From page A25)

young actresses such as **Claudine Barretto** or **Kristine Hermosa**.

21-23He is aware he will be tagged as the "son of Coney Reyes." But he really doesn't mind living in the shadow of his more popular mom.

"I'm proud of my mom and I look up to her, that's why I'm here in show biz," he says. "Even if others say that show biz is dirty, I see the integrity of my mom. What I am today is largely because of her.

"I know there's pressure in being the son of Coney Reyes and people expect big things from me. I just want to do my best and hopefully go beyond the tag."

Lesbian party

A ROUSING lesbian party took place in a bar in Malate and surprisingly, there were female celebs who apparently weren't afraid to be seen in the affair.

Their presence in the exclusive party doesn't necessarily mean the celebrities are lesbians, too.

One is a former child star and the other is an actress-TV host. The host of the event is a former teen actor who was also a member of **German More-no's** "That's Entertainment."

Baby girl for Pat-P and Mike

CONGRATULATIONS to **Mike Planas** and **Pat-P Daza** on the birth of their seven-pound baby girl, **Gabrielle Francine**.

Pat-P, who is the communications director of ABS-CBN, gave birth via Caesarian Section last Friday at the Cardinal Santos Hospital.

New series on Disney Channel

THE LAMPIES is a group of magical Lamp Posts whose main aim in life is to illuminate the world with their bright lights.

Join the Lampies as they battle their arch enemy The Roons, who want to plunge Earth into darkness.

"The Lampies" airs Mondays to Fridays, 3 p.m. on the Disney Channel. The series tells the delightful tale about the tiny world that is going on behind the scenes all over the planet.

The basic conflict between darkness and light is the central theme of the series.

"The Lampies" is a collaboration between Red Balloo Productions and Uli Meyer. Episodes are written by Jimmy Hebbert. Creator is David Bonner.

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Why show biz marriages don't always work

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

WITH all the show biz marriages breaking up lately, the stars might as well have their own version of Independence Day.

However, they may be free from their partners but they can't escape the intrigues that come with the aftermath of the split. It's no longer the season for June brides; it's the season of June gripes.

Separation is the talk of the town these days. Last Thursday, I was a guest on "Debate" on GMA 7 and the topic was "*Tatagal ba ang* show biz marriages?"

I was on the No side with **Hajji Alejandro** and **Gary Lising**. At the end of the show, when Gov. **Oscar Orbos** and **Mel Tiangco** tallied the phone votes, our side won.

Why do most show biz marriages eventually expire just like a movie contract?

The next day I was invited to be on ANC's "Tell the People Now." **Julile Yap-Daza** and I had a one-on-one interview. It was about show biz break-ups again.

I thought it would be interesting to share with you some of the random thoughts of the hosts and the other guests about marriage and separation which they told me off-cam.

Julile Yap-Daza: "Men usually deny that they have affairs but women deny to themselves. They only snap out of their denial stage when the men finally admit that they found someone else."

Ces Oreña-Drilon: "I think pressure is greater on show biz marriages because of public scrutiny and expectations. Marriage is difficult enough as it is without having to deal with the gossip that the press, the fans and the industry itself generate. It's a high price to pay for being in the public eye."

Mel Tiangco: "Ego is a major issue when it comes to show biz couples. '*Pag lumaki na pareho ang* ego, *gulo na yan*. There's no room for two superstars. *Siyempre dapat isa lang ang bida* and the other one should be in a supporting role. If your partner is not from show biz, it would be hard for him to understand the demands of the job, and if he's from show biz, intrigues are inevitable."

Gov. Oscar Orbos: "For most show biz couples it gets to a point when they have to make a choice whether to end their show biz career or their marriage. To succeed in one they must give up the other. Maybe they should try not being too full of themselves so their marriages will work."

Hajji Alejandro: "The long hours away from each other take their toll somehow. Let's say I have a concert abroad and my partner has a show here so even if we want to be there for each other, we simply can't. That becomes a regular pattern because of the odd hours of our job. Before we realize it, we've drifted apart. There's no way it will work if both of you are active in show biz. One must lie low."

Gary Lising: "No matter what they say that it's just a job, I can never imagine seeing my partner doing a love scene with another man. It's impossible for them not to be affected. We're only human. That's why most show biz marriages are bound to fail. Temptation is too much."

Lotlot de Leon: "Since **Monching** and I are lucky enough to be married for 12 years now, even if we got married young, I feel so much pressure living up to the image of an ideal couple. I guess show biz couples like us should learn to adjust and prioritize to make their marriage last."

Rez Cortez: "I don't know why everyone is making a big deal out of show biz marriages breaking up. Why can't they focus on the happily married couples? As it is, the general impression is that when stars marry each other, it always ends in separation. It becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy."

For feedback, e-mail *wateringhole2000@yahoo.com*

Sharon Stone wants $100 M for losing 'Basic Instinct II'

LOS ANGELES—Sharon Stone is suing two producers, claiming they breached a contract for her to star in "Basic Instinct II."

The actress wants more than $100 million in damages from Andrew Vajna and Mario Kassar for allegedly reneging on the oral agreement.

Stone, 43, claims Vajna and Kassar, whose producing credits include the "Rambo" series and "Total Recall," agreed in June 2000 that she would recreate her role as Catherine Tramell from the 1992 sexual thriller.

The two were to produce "Basic Instinct II," and allegedly agreed to pay Stone $14 million in advance.

Stone claims she rejected other offers to prepare for her performance as the ice pick-wielding murderess, including "learning her lines, attending wardrobe and makeup sessions and moving to a health and fitness spa to achieve the physical effect requested by defendants."

Hoffman to star in, direct legal thriller

LOS ANGELES—Double Oscar-winner Dustin Hoffman will make his directorial debut in legal thriller "Personal Injuries," the Hollywood Reporter said Thursday.

He will also star and produce the Disney flick, an adaptation of the novel by Scott Turow, the trade journal said.

Turow's novel centers on an attorney (to be played by Hoffman) who has been bribing judges to win favorable decisions, and is then pressured into assisting the FBI in a sting.

Hoffman won his best actor Oscars for "Rain Man" (1988) and "Kramer vs Kramer" (1979).

Charlie Sheen daughter nabbed

MALIBU, California—The 16-year-old daughter of actor Charlie Sheen was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting at a Malibu clothing boutique, a sheriff's deputy said.

The girl, whose name was withheld because of her age, was arrested Wednesday afternoon, Deputy Ron Bottomley said.

She was booked on suspicion of shoplifting and released to her mother, Bottomley said.

Berry confident about being naked

LOS ANGELES—Halle Berry feels more sure of herself in her grand old age—which is why the 32-year-old actress was more confident about appearing naked in "Swordfish."

"I just have always not wanted to show my body. I was insecure about it," Berry—who appears topless in the film—told website Zap2it.com.

"As I've gotten older I think I've matured and I've realized, you know what, it has been limiting me, I think, in the parts that I may want to play—by not playing sexy parts and being women who are real women.

"You know, and as I'm getting older, I can't keep playing kids. I have to become a woman and it's just like a step in that direction."

"Swordfish"—also starring John Travolta, Hugh Jackman and Don Cheadle—hits North American movie theaters starting Friday. ***AFP***

Bust, and then boom!

(From page A27)

It doesn't happen that way, of course, but it sure would have been an improvement.

Putting up with the film's frivolities is a small price to pay, considering its upcoming treat. And with a $140-million budget that was obviously not lavished on the screenplay, I knew I was in for a mind-blowing, visual extravaganza.

The good news is the film does take off when the bombs start falling.

Bravura

There's an adage that is perhaps more applicable to moviemaking than to anything else: "What you lack in substance, you can make up for in style."

The people responsible for "Pearl Harbor"—producer Jerry Bruckheimer, and co-producer and director Michael Bay—have obviously taken that adage to heart in making the film. What "Pearl Harbor" lacks in depth and perception, it certainly makes up for with cinematic bravura.

The dogfights alone, for instance, featuring vintage World War II fighter planes, are the best I've seen on film—tenacious, vivid and gripping aerial combat that makes the action in "Top Gun" look almost laughable.

But the piece de resistance is the ambitious depiction of the events that transpired in Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. When the film finally gives us its 40-minute or so version of the bombing, we get such a stinging taste of the hellishness and the orgy of violence that we cannot but appreciate the graveness of Franklin D. Roosevelt's (Jon Voight) speech, in which he called the tragedy "a day that will live in infamy."

Empty words to me before, a haunting quote after seeing the film.

Bay deftly combines the magic of computer-generated special effects, with simple, striking cinematography (John Schwartzman), as when a swarm of Japanese bombers zooms across the picturesque landscape of Hawaii, flying past picture-postcard scenes of boy scouts camping and children playing baseball, to some extent defining the last flash of innocence before America finally plunges into war.

For a sample of the jaw-dropping pyrotechnics, how about free-falling with a bomb as it is released from thousands of feet above and hurtles down to blast the USS Arizona, the most celebrated of the 18 battleships that were sunk or badly damaged during the raid.

Pseudo-docu

Even after the bombs have stopped falling, the film plods on, presenting us with other details and nuances about the destruction. We come across the madness at the usually zero-occupancy hospital at the base, where Evelyn has to do a triage, sorting those who still have a chance to live from the dead and the critically injured by marking the victims with her lipstick. We see the storing of donated blood on empty Coke bottles for lack of any other suitable container; the futile attempt to rescue survivors caught inside overturned vessels.

"Pearl Harbor" puts the death toll of both "Titanic" and "Saving Private Ryan" to shame.

For those of us who've only read about Pearl Harbor in history books, the film gives the impression that it has captured the essence of the story, without necessarily being true to the facts.

The fictionalized version may spur some debate because of certain inconsistencies with historical accounts, but then again, the film is only a pseudo-documentary. As far as being able to evoke the scope and the immensity of the devastation, and the significance of it to American fence-sitting at the time, the recreation might just be everything it should be.

$140 M

Sure, it could have been better, a lot better. The filmmakers could have scrapped that love story in favor of giving more leverage to the non-fictional characters in the film, like Roosevelt, Dorie Miller (Cuba Gooding), General Doolittle (Alec Baldwin) and Admiral Yamamoto (Mako).

But if they did that, they would have risked losing the film's appeal to the MTV generation most of whom are lured by Affleck, Beckinsale and Josh Hartnett (that's a big market). They could have cut the entire third stage of the film, which highlighted America's revenge, the daring raid on Tokyo. But that would have torn the hearts of flag-waving Americans who expect the film to end on an upbeat note (that's also a big market).

Oh, the travails of trying to make a cinematic classic and recoup your $140 million, too!

For most people, the effort itself is good enough.

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Coney and Larry's son L.A. tries to score in show biz

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WHEN **L.A. Mumar** was a kid, he idolized his dad **Larry Mumar** so much that the only thing he wanted was to become a basketball player. He was not inclined to show business even when his mom, **Coney Reyes**, has made a name for herself as an actress.

L.A. played basketball from grade school to college. At the Ateneo de Manila University, he was a point guard in the varsity team which competed in the Universities Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP).

After college, L.A. thought of joining the Philippine Amateur Basketball League (PABL) and of moving on and playing for the pro-league just like his dad.

But show biz, after all, runs in his veins and the good-looking 23-year-old was eventually sidetracked into show biz.

"I realized that I've been playing basketball more than half of my life," L.A. shares. "I told myself I should stop being like my dad. It's time to follow in my mom's footsteps."

L.A. is the eldest of two children of Coney and Larry. He has a younger sister, **Carla**, now 20. Brother **Vico**, 11, is Coney's son with her erstwhile "Eat Bulaga" cohost **Vic Sotto**.

ABS-CBN executive **Charo Santos-Concio** saw L.A.'s show biz potential when she spotted him at the wake of his maternal grandmother.

"I read the eulogy there and I cried," L.A. recalls. "Days after that, (Charo) talked to my mom and asked if I wanted to join show biz."

He did not quickly bite the offer. After earning a development studies degree from Ateneo, he joined their church's mission work to Russia where he stayed for five months.

"I wanted to rest after college and do something different," he says. "When I felt I was ready to join show biz, I went back to *Tita* Charo.

"I also had a serious talk with my mom and she explained to me the pros and cons of being in the business. She asked if I was ready for the intrigues, the long working hours, the hard work.

"Then I told my dad about my decision. I'm sure he really wanted me to become a PBA player, but he was supportive when I told him I wanted to be in show biz."

At ABS-CBN, L.A. was made to undergo a rigid, three-month workshop. He was launched early this month as a member of Star Circle's Batch 9.

L.A. makes his TV acting debut in ABS-CBN's newest tele-series, "Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka," which topbills the loveteam of **Judy Ann Santos** and **Piolo Pascual**, with a powerhouse supporting cast, including L.A.'s mom. **Joey Reyes** directs.

L.A. believes being an entertainer is really in his genes.

"I love entertaining people," he says. "During our family gatherings or parties, I would always host the program. I also want to try TV hosting one day."

Since he is an active member of the Born-Again movement and attends the Victory Christian Fellowship, L.A. has imposed certain limitations on his acting career.

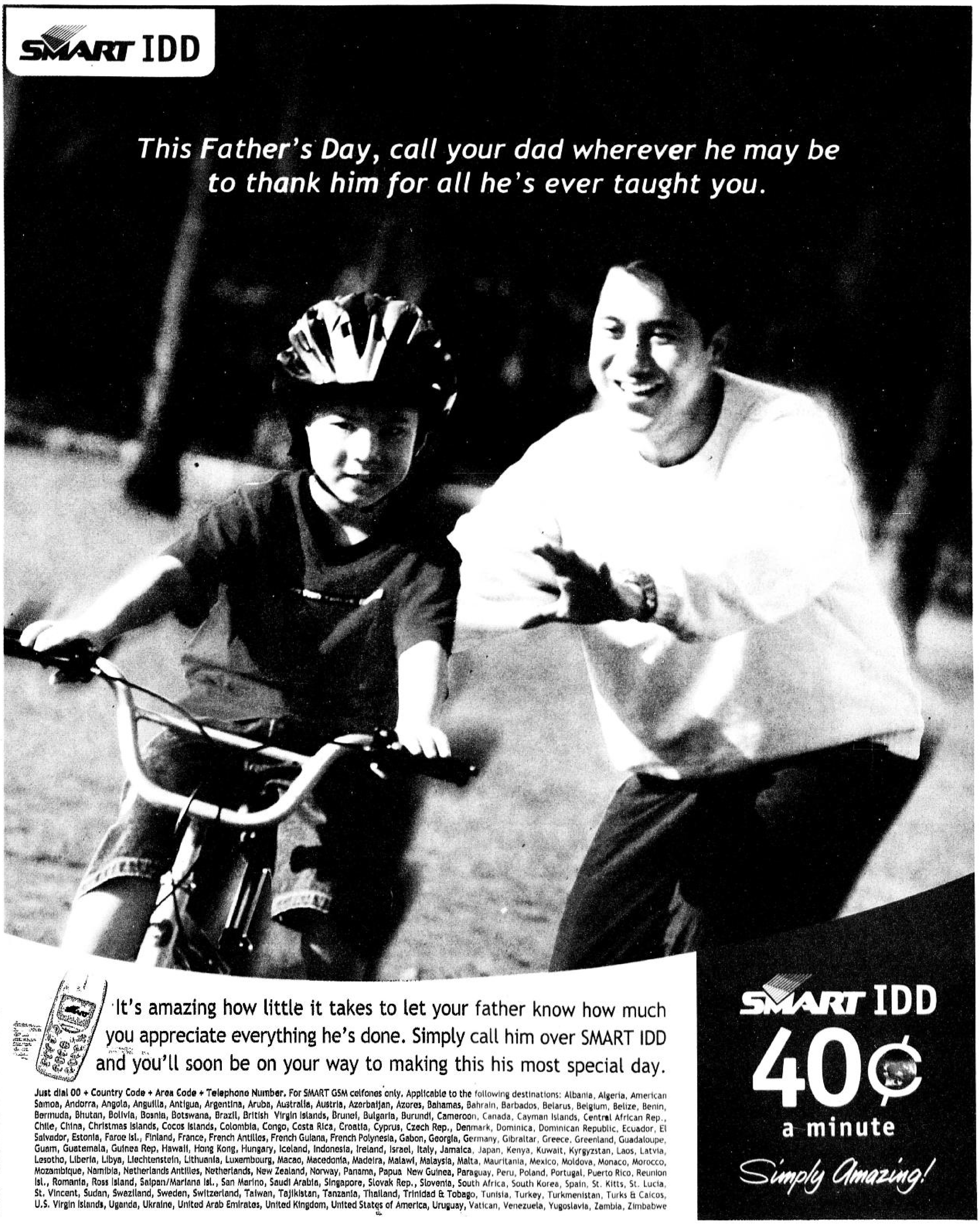
"Definitely, I won't do any bold or even daring roles," he says. "I want to concentrate on TV and focus on my acting. I don't want to go into the movies right away."

L.A. says he is so focused that his love life is "zero" at the moment. In show biz, his idols are **Aga Muhlach** and **Richard Gomez**. He is thrilled no end to be given a chance to work with Richard in the new legal drama, "Your Honor," which also premieres this month on ABS-CBN.

L.A. also hopes to be able to work with

CONEY/ A23

MUMAR. Makes his acting debut in the new ABS-CBN tele-series



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Teapot tempests on TV

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THEY say you can't squeeze blood out of a turnip, but show biz programs on TV try to do it all the time. They sometimes appear to be so deficient in scandalous stories involving big stars that they devote many minutes to itty-bitty skirmishes between minor "celebrities."

Two recent instances stand out. The first involved some character actresses who were contestants in a TV game show. Before the game started, they agreed that, whoever won, they would all get a share of the prize money. Unfortunately, after the game, the winner had second thoughts about sharing her goodies with the other contestants.

That's it. You would think that the mess would have been talked about for a minute or two, then dropped. But, no way: many of the losing contestants appeared on TV, accusations and counter-accusations were hurled, and some 20 precious program minutes were expended on this teapot tempest.

The second instance involved a sexy singer and her lover. Their relationship had gone sour, prompting the singer to accuse her lover of beating her up. In retaliation, he said that she was a drug addict and had asked him to kill her husband.

Tit for tat, the singer then said that it was her lover who was an addict, and that he had a gun and had threatened her with physical harm.

They went on and on, not just on one day in one show, but for several days on many shows, milking the scandal for all of the publicity mileage it could give them.

Sadly, because they were in need of a scandal to attract curious viewers, many shows gave the verbal combatants the lengthy TV exposure they craved.

It would have been understandable if the singer and her lover were major stars whose affair had gone sour, but this was definitely not the case with these voluble ex-lovers, so why the long and lurid exposure?

The staffers of some TV shows about show biz should work harder to cover bigger and more real news and issues, instead of distending their coverage of the picayune conflicts of relatively minor personalities on the entertainment scene.

Book on Ishmael Bernal

NOW that the late **Ishmael Bernal** will be conferred the title of National Artist for Film (conferment rites will be on June 13), he should be honored with a retrospective of his best films, plus a book on his life and career.

The best person to author the book is Ishmael's friend and script-writer, **Jorge Arago**. The last time I talked to Jorge, he had written much of the biography but hadn't found a publisher. Just last week, however, I learned that the book will be published by another very close friend of Ishmael, **Marilou Diaz-Abaya**. What wonderful news!

We trust that the book on Ishmael will come out this year. While we're at it, won't some people also write books on other national artists for film like **Gerardo de Leon** and **Lamberto V. Avellana**? They are eminently deserving of such biographical and analytical attention.

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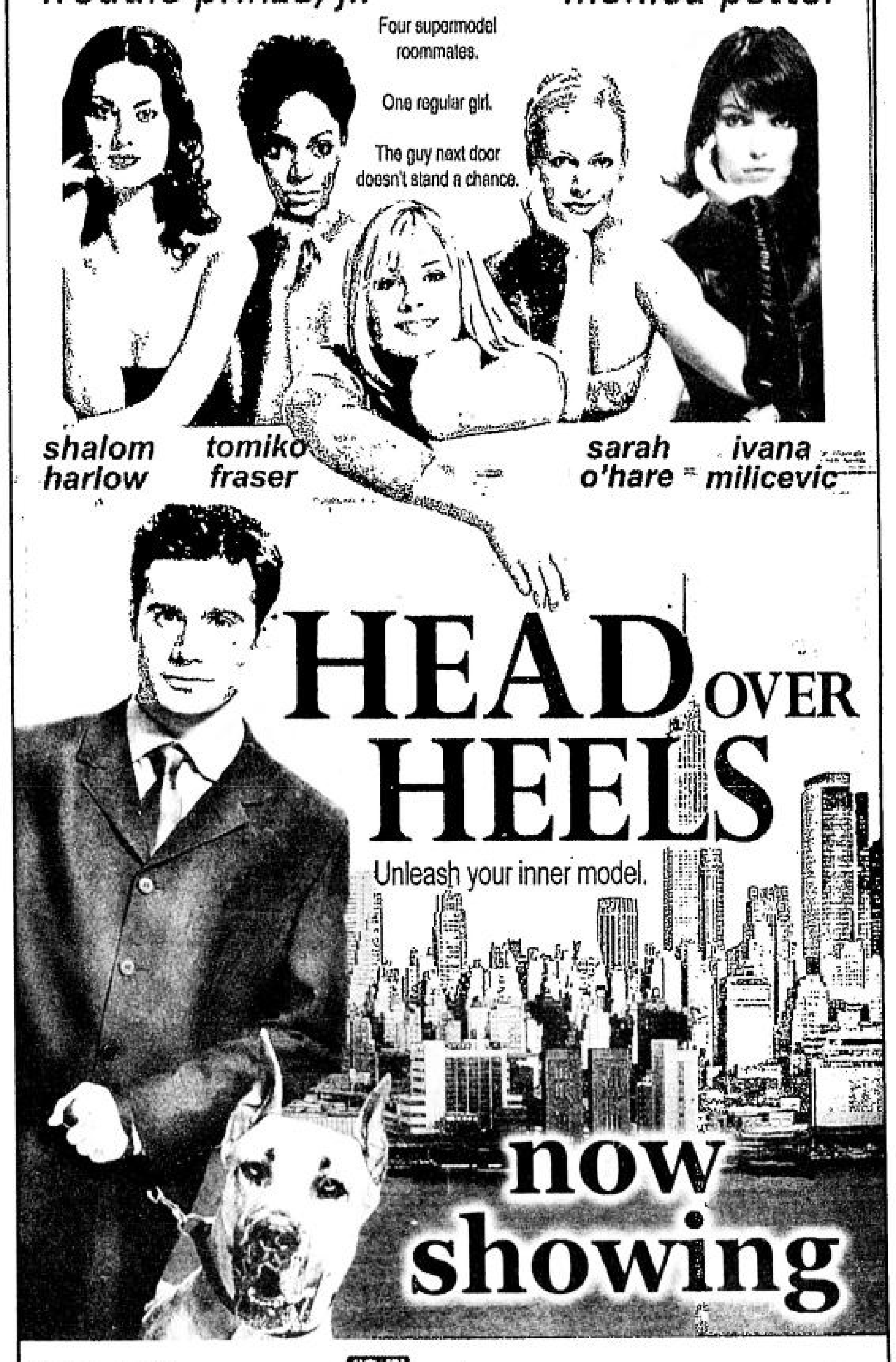
freddie prinze, jr. monica potter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HEAD OVER HEELS - P 13 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00	PEARL HARBOR - P 13 1:00, 4:30, 8:00	PEARL HARBOR - P 13 12:20, 3:50, 7:20, 10:50

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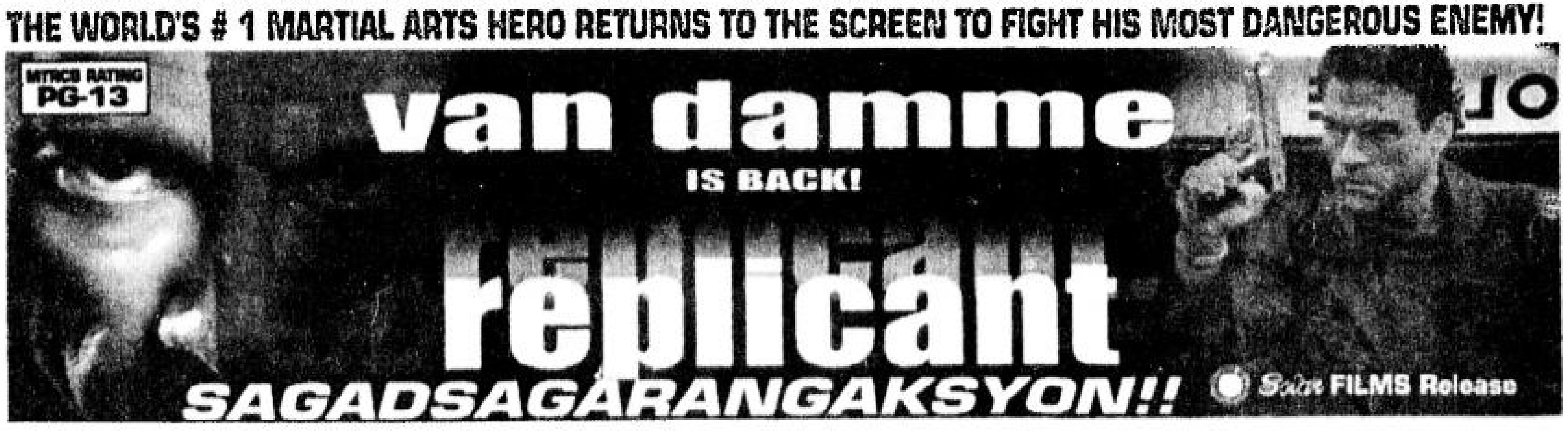
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'PEARL HARBOR'

Bust, and then boom!

BY RUBEN CRUZ JR.

REVIEW

BEHIND every big disaster film is an unbearably tedious love story nobody really wants to see.

Everybody knew the Titanic was going to smash into an iceberg and bring down most of its passengers to kingdom come, but before that, we first had to endure the almost pitiful prelude of Rose and Jack, and their falling in love montage.

Did we see "Armageddon" to witness Ben Affleck and Liv Tyler get cozy with each other? Or did we see it because of that asteroid that would have ended crushed the world?

Of course, we were willing enough to bear with the histrionics because we knew the best was yet to come, that after the sappy stuff would come the spectacle. And we were right; in both movies, the spectacle was indeed worth the wait.

The plot of "Pearl Harbor" runs along a similar line. If there's any doubt about that, it's quickly erased when the music video of the film's theme song is played like an anthem before its actual screening. We are all looking forward to the mayhem, when the kamikazes would bomb the bejesus out of the US Pacific Fleet. That is what the film is supposedly about, after all.

But again, we don't expect the grand finale to happen when we've just gotten comfortable in our seats, do we?

The film's writer, Randall Wallace, tries to set us up for the carnage by holding us hostage for a good hour or so (the movie is almost three hours long), making us virtual observers to a "Grease"-like but decade-early romance between a bunch of US poster pilots and their pretty Navy nurse-girlfriends.

I kid you not about the comparison to "Grease." Watch out for that train scene where the chief female protagonist, Evelyn (played by Kate Beckinsale), relate to her gal pals how her romance with ace pilot Rafe McCawley (Affleck's character) blossomed, and then think of Olivia Newton-John and "Summer Nights." Take away the singing, and it's the same spiel.

Such triteness from the same guy who wrote "Braveheart" is inexcusable.

Mawkish

It seems to me the only reason Wallace wants us to endure an hour or so of such mawkishness is in order for the film to squeeze out the maximum empathy for its characters when the carnage does come. But he does such a bad job with the script that I got fed up with them first, their paper-thin personalities and corny, clichéd dialogue and rah-rah-America babble.

When the Japanese start mowing down everything in sight, I feel I want Affleck and company to get blown off the screen first. "If I had one more night to live, I'd want to spend it with you," Evelyn tells Rafe in one scene. Oh yeah? Boom! Off you go! Serves you right for using such a hackneyed line! And take the rest of your unoriginal friends with you, too!

BUST/A24

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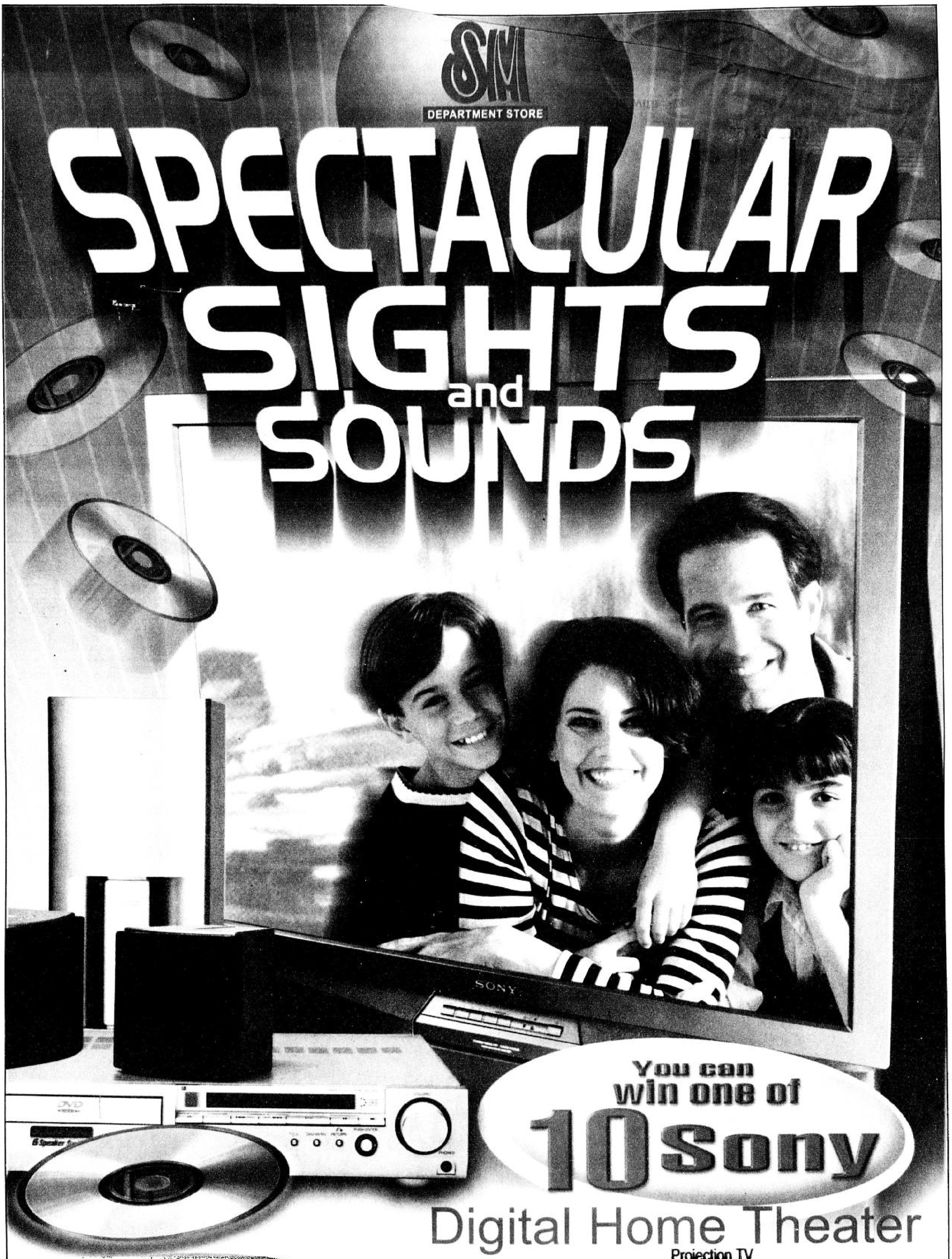

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Peso tumbles past 51:$1; T-bill rates fall

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PESO tumbled to 51.19 to $1 yesterday following jitters caused by the weakness of regional currencies and the Abu Sayyaf's threat to kill its American hostages if the Macapagal administration failed to negotiate the terms of their release.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the depreciation of the Thai baht and the Japanese yen was the main reason for the peso's decline.

However, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura acknowledged in a phone interview that the Abu Sayyaf crisis had aggravated the currency's fall.

"The decline was essentially regional but bad news caused by the Abu Sayyaf is not helping us from a peace-and-order perspective," said the central bank governor who is attending a monetary conference in Switzerland.

The Thai baht fell by 0.23 percent to 45.16 to $1, the Japanese yen by 0.43 percent to 121.48 to $1, the Korean won by 0.27 percent to 1,288.50 to $1, and the Indonesian rupiah by 0.42 percent to 11,260 to $1 yesterday.

Meantime, the yields of the 91- and 182-day Treasury bills continued to soften during yesterday's weekly auction.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said he expected the 91-day yield—the government's benchmark borrowing rate—to fall further to 8.5 percent next month.

Rates of the 91-day and six-month debt papers stood at 8.729 percent and 9.7 percent yesterday while the one-year treasury bill yield rose slightly by 3.1 basis points to 10.823 percent.

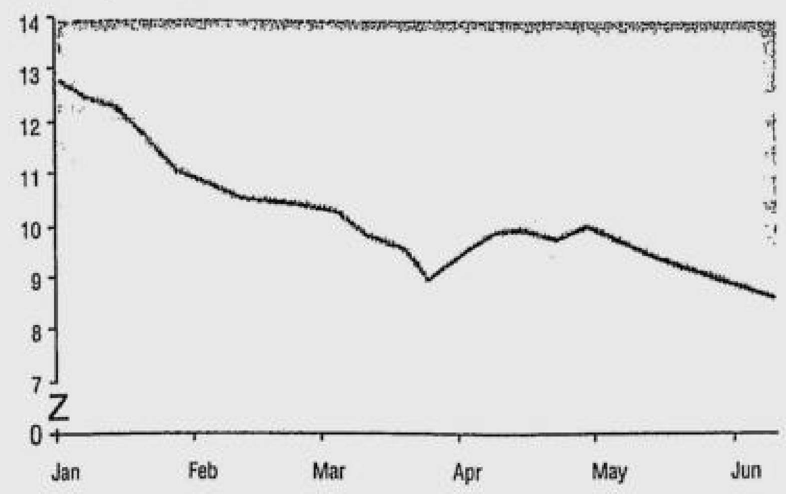
"I see the 91-day T-bill rate falling to 8.5 percent if the US Fed cuts its rate by 25 basis points and the BSP (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) by more than 25 points by month's end," Edeza said.

Treasury bill rates track the movement of the central bank's overnight rates while the 91-day benchmark is used by banks in pricing their loans.

The government borrows P4 billion from the private sector weekly through the auction of treasury bills.

91-day T-bill rates

January 2001 - June 2001



SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

Edeza said the financial market was anticipating the BSP's rate cut to be deeper than the expected quarter-point reduction in US rates on June 26.

He explained that a continued decline in inflation could prod the BSP to lower its rates sharply.

Edeza said he was pleasantly surprised with the auction results yesterday since he was only expecting a 5- to 10-basis point decline in the yields. The slight increase in the 364-day rate was only a correction following a 51.5-basis point decline in its rate two weeks ago. One percentage point is equal to 100 basis points.

Despite the continued decline in the government's borrowing rate, banks still showed no signs of lending more aggressively.

"Banks are still not lending because we are still grappling with a confidence problem. So banks continue to park their money with the government, which offers a stable and better-yielding rates," Edeza said.

On the currency market, traders said the baht had declined because of lower interest rates, the yen due to shrinking economic growth, the won because of fears that a weaker yen would hurt Korea's exports, and the rupiah because of political uncertainties.

A trader from a foreign bank explained that demand for dollars had been increasing in the local market as companies started preparing their inventories for the second half of the year.

As demand rose, the trader said, ordinary citizens held on to their dollars expecting a continued peso weakness in the coming days due to the unresolved Abu Sayyaf situation.

Another trader said the local market opened weak at P51 to $1 and even fell to a day's low of P51.23. Signs of profit-taking in afternoon trading helped the peso to recover slightly.

Buenaventura said the central bank did not intervene in the market yesterday as he assured the peso's depreciation would be temporary. Traders said the peso would continue to weaken for the rest of the week unless the government reports positive developments on the peace-and-order front.

Gov't lowers economic growth target for 2001

THE MACAPAGAL administration is expecting a lower economic growth of 3.3 to 3.8 percent this year following a weak first-quarter performance.

A ranking finance official yesterday said the inter-agency Development Budget Coordinating Council approved last Saturday the lower growth target from an earlier projection of 3.8-4.2 percent.

All other numbers, including the collection target of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the budget deficit and the inflation forecast for the year were kept unchanged at P408 billion, P145 billion, and a range of 6 to 7 percent.

The DBCC counts as its members officials of the finance and budget departments, the Bureau of Treasury, the National Economic and Development Authority and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

"The new GDP (gross domestic product) growth target would be presented to the Cabinet on Wednesday," the ranking finance official said. Incoming Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho was unavailable for comment as of press time.

The finance official who talked to reporters yesterday said that while government earnings decline by P5 billion for every one-percentage point decline in GDP growth, the revenue targets as well as the budget deficit forecasts were not revised.

The Bureau of Customs had committed to raise P120 billion this year although its collection as of April was short by P1 billion at P28.3 billion.

The BIR's earnings in the first four months of the year only reached P134.55 billion against its target of P145.11 billion.

"The consensus in the DBCC was that a lower economic growth does not justify lower revenue collection. And even if earnings fall short, the deficit target of P145 billion would remain achievable because of lower spending," the finance official said.

GOV'T/ B2

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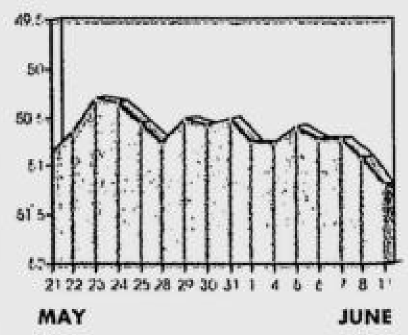


GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P51.190 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
June 11, 2001

¥121.46 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 121.46 as of 5 p.m., June 11, 2001

GOLD:$271.40/271.90

per ounce Hong Kong, June 11, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares end higher

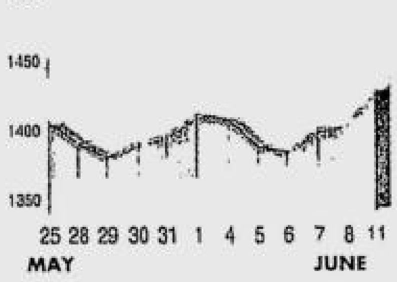
SHARES finished sharply higher yesterday, buoyed by strong demand for blue chips, led by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index broke its 1430-point resistance with a 25.27-point, or 1.8 percent, rise to 1435.77, adding to a 0.3-percent gain Friday. The index has gained 3.3 percent since June 7.

PLDT helped boost the main index, closing 4.5 percent higher at P700, on foreign demand.

AP

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B3)

PSE urged to raise listing requirement

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has urged the Philippine Stock Exchange to consider increasing the minimum level of shares to be listed on the exchange to encourage trading activity.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista told reporters last week that lack of good securities contributed to the low trading volume of the exchange, resulting in the pullout of several foreign brokerage companies from the country.

Bautista also noted that, in a draft study on corporate governance in

PSE/ B2

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Let's drink to dot

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

OUR history question today is, why do we celebrate Independence Day, and can I play a major role in the kissing scene. If I am not mistaken, it has nothing to do with the movie about an alien invasion. You know—extraterrestrial alien.

For our country, the conquerors were a different kind of alien. They forced us to study their language in school even up to many generations later. Thus, today's celebration is just our way of affirming what our forefathers decided some 103 years ago.

At that time, our forefathers said enough of those lisping conquistadores, who could not even pronounce the letters "c" and "z" properly, which always came out as "th," as if they got into a street brawl and lost all their front teeth.

* * *

THANKFULLY, today we are already independent from lisping. Instead, we talk like black rappers from New York or nightclub operators from Tokyo. Somebody also wants our schools to teach Mandarin, so maybe we can talk like smugglers.

Smuggled goods used to come mainly from the United States such as chocolates, blue seal cigarettes, and porno magazines. Later, they came from Japan such as electronics, hospital waste, and battery-operated sexual aids.

But it was done discreetly then, most often under the cover of darkness. Today, while half of the whole Metro Manila is made in China, the goods are even smuggled here under the very nose of the Bureau of Customs in broad daylight.

What's happening here is, well, maybe we are becoming a nation of traders. Let's just buy everything outside. Just take a look at the things sold in the stores in Metro Manila. If a lot of them are not made in China, they are assembled in China.

* * *

PERHAPS we can now afford to kill our manufacturing sector. Our gallant government economists insist they don't see an economic recession anywhere in the horizon. While I can agree with them, I still think we need an economic plan.

All right, there's no recession. To me, the first sign of a recession is when people start to drink rubbing alcohol instead of San Miguel beer. This is not happening. People are still drinking beer, because San Miguel is still posting up good figures.

With already a good showing in 2000, when it netted something like P7.5 billion, its operating income in the past quarter still climbed by 31 percent to P2.4 billion. Sales were up by 21 percent at P24 billion. Even I can't finish that many bottles of beer, hic!

* * *

YET the economic figures in the past five months did not exactly cooperate with this cute administration of Gloriaetta. In April, for instance, exports did not only stop growing, they even took a big dive by some 14 percent. This is dangerous.

A good part of the economic growth during the dark ages under the man named Band... Wrist Band... actually came from double-digit growths in exports. Without the push from exports, the econony might just stand still, if in fact it doesn't faint.

According to government economists, who say there's no recession in the foreseeable future, as if they actually have an economic plan, only the remittances of Filipino workers abroad kept the economic growth rate above the 3-percent level.

Below such a level, you see, the economy may still be growing but it doesn't have any effect. Why? Because the population is growing by 2.5 percent, eating up much of the growth. It's as if we are sprinting like hell only to stay in the same place.

* * *

REPORTS say that the government will have to import rice soon. Copra prices are also down. Oil prices are bound to go up due to a dropping world inventory. The US dot-com slowdown is affecting the world. To top it all, the Abu Sayyaf are back in business.

I mean, nobody is exactly saying let's drink to dot...este, that. I don't envy Gloriaetta. This cute administration, it seems to me, will have to do a lot of convincing to make people believe that they are missing a lot if they don't invest today.

It has to do more than just promise the Chinese-Filipinos that Mandarin will be taught in school. To bring about investments, we need policies which will allow business to survive in such a hostile environment. For that, maybe we must have a plan first.

* * *

TO me, the performance of companies like San Miguel creates a good impression of the country among investors both local and alien. It tells them that it's still possible to do business in the Philippines and make a lot of money. San Miguel is doing it.

For example, the US firm Merrill Lynch, which is one of the world's most influential investment firm, rates the stocks of San Miguel as a "buy." In its recent advisory, Merrill Lynch told investors to accumulate the stocks.

In stock market parlance, "accumulate" means that the investor should buy every now and then, say, when prices are reasonable, thereby slowly building up his or her or its holdings. It does not mean "plunder"—as in BW—or anything like that.

If Merrill Lynch is prodding its clients to buy San Miguel stocks, which happens to be a Filipino company, you can say that San Miguel must be doing a better PR job than all of the President's men and women and in-between combined.

* * *

YET San Miguel is not spared from intrigues within the Gloriaetta administration. A lot of them may be due to its chair, Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. Some people in this cute administration wanted to boot him out. Why? Maybe because he saved the company.

In 1998, when Cojuangco took over management of the company, it had no way of raising money to pay hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars of its loans which were maturing that very same year. This is a "sequestered" company we're talking about.

And that was just a year after the Asian financial meltdown hit the Philippines in 1997. It could have been easy for Cojuangco to blame bad times for doing poorly in San Miguel, and no judge or jury would jail him in a hospital.

* * *

REALLY, I think Cojuangco is not the type. In fact, there is no such thing as bad times for him. Instead of holding back on investments, for instance, Cojuangco pushed for San Miguel's acquisition of the local Coca Cola company.

Some people in this cute administration attacked the investment as just another Cojuangco fantasy. Well, it turns out that the move actually proved to be a hit among investors abroad like Merrill Lynch. It created a good impression overseas.

Maybe that's why the PCGG didn't ruin the recent annual stockholders meeting of San Miguel. All right, PCGG still says that it would still go after Cojuangco. For what? For making San Miguel a good example of doing business here?

Methinks it's time we get over the issues on sequestration. Whether it belongs to Cojuangco or it belongs to the government, it doesn't matter. We have to resolve the issue now once and for all. Look, there's an economic storm coming.

Maynilad seeks ₱3B in loans

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. is planning to seek P2 billion to P3 billion in bridge financing from the Development Bank of the Philippines, Land Bank of the Philippines and Philippine National Bank.

Maynilad president Rafael Alunan III said in an interview that the company would tap the assistance of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System in securing the loan.

Alunan said the loan would be used to finance Maynilad's day-to-day operations and service maturing obligations to contractors worth P800 million while the company is working out a $350-million long-term loan. He said it would take another six months to finalize the long-term loan which was put on hold by Maynilad's creditors.

The company needs to secure a bridge financing because the P4.75 per-cubic-meter tariff increase it will impose in July is expected to fall short of the company's funding requirements, he said.

A memorandum of cooperation between the government and the Lopez-owned water utility allowed Maynilad to recover foreign exchange losses amounting to P2.7 billion in the next 18 months through a P4.75-per-cubic-meter water rate increase, the highest since the water distribution sector was privatized in 1997.

"The signing of the memorandum of cooperation (between Maynilad and Manila Water Works and Sewerage System) will give us a better leverage in negotiating with the banks that include Bank of Tokai, Coface and Banque de Paribas," Alunan told reporters.

Maynilad, however, will not resume paying its debts to MWSS until the $350-million loan is obtained. The company owes MWSS P620 million in concession fees. The amount is expected to reach P2.45 billion by the end of the year.

Maynilad stopped paying its concession fees and the debts it inherited from MWSS in March after the government turned down its request for an automatic currency exchange rate adjustment to cover foreign exchange losses.

The MOC allows Maynilad to increase its basic rates for the second time this year, which the government and the water utility claimed was provided in the Extraordinary Pricing Adjustment clause of the concession agreement.

Maynilad is a joint venture between the Lopez group and the Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux of France. It covers the west service zone that includes Manila, Pasay, Las Piñas, Malabon, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, Parañaque, Bacoor, Kawit, Imus, Cavite City, Noveleta, Rosario and parts of Taguig and Quezon City.

Music.com to pursue sale of assets in next 3 mos. to avoid bankruptcy

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

TROUBLED Music.com may still be saved from bankruptcy if it will succeed in selling enough assets in the next two to three months.

Music is optimistic that it will attract buyers in the next 60 to 90 days amid the merger and acquisition mania in the global music portal industry.

Music president Michael Burton said in a letter to shareholders that the next three months were expected to provide a clear window of opportunity to sell the dotcom unit's assets.

"It must be said, of course, that no sale at any price is guaranteed and that it is possible that after 90 days, all efforts would fail and Music.com would still end up in bankruptcy," Burton said.

Music owns a 19-percent direct stake in Music.com while its shareholders, through a special purpose vehicle, control another 52 percent.

In a separate letter, Music.com president Philippe Bellosguardo said: "Giving up the struggle and putting Music.com into bankruptcy was an option that has been investigated."

Bellosguardo, however, said the company could ride on the buying spree of three global media groups (Vivendi, Bertelsmann and AOL Time Warner), that have been competing to acquire online tools, in selling Music.com assets and saving itself from bankruptcy.

Previous deals involving music portals were estimated to be worth between $23 million and $372 million.

"This is in no way an attempt to suggest that Music.com could be valued at anything close to these deals. However, we do believe that the next 60 to 90 days represent a clear window of opportunity to execute proper sale of Music.com assets," he said.

For its part, Music agreed to underwrite $300,000 in bridge financing, which is needed to keep operations running within the 90-day liquidation period.

The dotcom unit was pushed to the brink of bankruptcy by the slump in the market's interest in the Internet sector. It has laid off 70 percent of its workforce and closed its Nashville and Los Angeles offices.

JBIC funding for ₱19.5B worth of projects approved

THE JAPAN Bank International Cooperation and the Philippine government have signed in Tokyo a series of loan agreements worth Y55 billion (about P19.5 billion) that will fund nine projects in the country.

The National Economic and Development Authority, in a statement, said the series of loan agreements brought the cumulative official development assistance (ODA) commitments of JBIC to the Philippines to Y19 trillion covering 251 projects.

This year's loans will fund agricultural infrastructure and participatory development projects. The package aims to achieve sustainable growth of the Philippine economy and bring direct benefits to the poor in line with the priority concerns identified by the government in the Medium-Term Strategy for Overseas Economic Cooperation Operations. These areas include: strengthening the economic structure and removing impediments to sustain growth; reducing poverty and regional disparities; environmental conservation and disaster prevention; and human resource development and institutional capacity building.

The most notable among the nine projects for funding are three specific projects that will directly assist the poor people in Northern Samar, Mindanao and Northern Palawan.

The Help for Catubig Agricultural Advancement Project will develop irrigation and water supply and upgrade roads in Catubig Valley in the east-central section of Northern Samar. This will provide infrastructure for agricultural production and improve the general health of the population.

The Mindanao Sustainable Area Development Project is expected to develop agricultural infrastructure and provide assistance to farming. This will help reduce poverty among farmers in Mindanao.

The Sustainable Environmental Management Project in Northern Palawan will design an environment management program and implement works to halt soil erosion. This will ensure comprehensive environment conservation in Northern Palawan.

Gov't lowers . . .

(From page B1)

GDP growth last year stood at 3.9 percent despite a serious political crisis that eventually led to the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada.

The budget deficit in the first four months of the year stood at P28.097 billion compared to a target of P39 billion. Government officials were optimistic that this year's deficit target could be attained.

"The DBCC has no choice but to revise the GDP growth figure because all factors point to a downward trend," the finance official said.

Economic growth only stood at 2.5 percent in the first quarter, much lower than the 3-percent target. The sluggish growth in the first three months of the year is expected to bring down the full-year level.

The finance official said the DBCC had no choice but to reduce its growth target as gains in exports were projected to taper off to only 4 percent this year from 8.7 percent last year following an economic slowdown in the United States and Japan, which account for 45 percent of the country's total shipments.

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. signed a contract with **Oracle Philippines** to provide a networking service for Oracle's increasing demand for wide area network (WAN) bandwidth through **Acasia ATM** service.

* * *

SUN Life Financial Services of Canada Inc. announced that John M. Macleod ceased to be a director of the company as of May 18.

* * *

AGP Industrial Corp. has postponed its annual stockholders' meeting scheduled for June 15 until further notice.

* * *

SPI Technologies Inc. disclosed that the utilization summary for the proceeds of its stock rights offering amounted to more than P215 million.

* * *

OMICO Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 29 at 9 a.m. at Salcedo/Legaspi/Urdaneta Function Rooms, Makati Sports Club Inc., L. P. Leviste cor. Gallardo Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of June 8 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED to the board of directors of **Pacemco Holdings Inc.** were Orlando B. Vea as chair, David T. Fernando as president, Vicente F. Ruaro as treasurer and Anna Melissa R. Lichaytoo as corporate secretary.

* * *

ELECTED to the board of directors of **Universal Robina Corp.** were John Gokongwei Jr., James L. Go, Johnson Robert L. Go Sr., Lance Y. Gokongwei, Partrick Henry C. Go, Wilfrido E. Sanchez and Frederick D. Go.

* * *

SWIFT Tuna Corp. sold its trademark "Blue Bay" to **Canter Management Ltd.** ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, June 11, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	73	76	73	76	856,900
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	38.5	39	38.5	39	32,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	218	219	217	218	280,230
Philippine National Bank	49.5	49.5	49	49	27,000
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	2,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc..	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	70,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	120,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1330	1330	1325	1330	1,780
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	30,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1145	1155	1145	1155	3,810
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	38	41	38	41	73,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.46	0.51	0.46	0.5	5,300,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	665	665	665	665	140
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	250,000
Piltel	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	670	705	670	700	194,320
Ivantage Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.88	0.88	160,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.04	0.041	0.039	0.04	106,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	41	41	40.5	40.5	21,300
Manila Electric Co. B	56	56.5	55.5	55.5	630,100
Petron Corp.	2.34	2.38	2.28	2.36	11,638,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.95	2.8	2.95	14,441,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	60,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	130,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	31,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.22	1.26	1.14	1.2	8,713,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	3,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.25	4.25	4	4.05	664,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	139,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26.5	27	26.5	27	40,500
Pancake House Inc..	1.58	1.62	1.58	1.62	30,000
Pure Foods Corp. A	120	120	120	120	1,360
RFM Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.28	1.28	1,050,000
San Miguel Corp. A	42	42	41.5	41.5	37,100
San Miguel Corp. B	46.5	47	46	46	322,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.76	0.85	0.76	0.79	290,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg. B	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	10,000
Ayala Corp.	7.1	7.1	7	7	3,528,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.54	1.62	1.54	1.58	1,212,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.5	12	11.25	11.25	4,800
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	60,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.58	0.58	1,310,000
APC Group Inc.	0.17	0.2	0.17	0.19	520,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	50,000
ATN Holdings Inc..	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2	8,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.68	1.92	1.68	1.88	49,665,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	4,810,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	322,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	24	24	24	24	319,600
Global Equities Inc	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Ionics Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	4,600
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.04	2.08	2.04	2.08	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.77	0.79	0.77	0.77	2,020,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	170,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.5	0.47	0.5	2,470,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	2,090,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	900,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc . A	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	115,000
Music Corp.	2.48	2.6	2.48	2.55	709,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	10,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	96,400
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.56	0.6	0.55	0.6	5,530,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.57	0.64	0.57	0.61	3,240,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	470,000
Manila Jockey Club	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	15,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	530,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	38.5	41	38.5	41	770,500
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	490	490	490	490	2,200
Equitable PCI Bank-War	2.22	2.22	2.2	2.2	40,000
Globe Tel. A-Warrants	450	450	450	450	400
Jollibee Warrants	13	13.25	13	13.25	83,600
RFM Corp.-Pref.	3.55	3.55	3.45	3.5	183,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.032	0.032	0.031	0.032	30,600,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc	4.95	5.2	4.9	5.2	8,889,000
C & P Homes Inc..	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.33	2,270,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	2,850,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.4	2.42	2.28	2.3	8,294,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
SM Development Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.4	2,472,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,200,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	10,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.016	0.019	0.016	0.019	4,900,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16	1,550,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	39,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	200,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	960,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	1,600,000
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	2,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	1,000,000

CURRENCIES

June11, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.175503	1.000000	50.8030
Japan	Yen	0.009720	0.008269	0.4201
United Kingdom	Pound	1.622311	1.380100	70.1132
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.150725	0.128222	6.5141
Switzerland	Franc	0.655789	0.557880	28.3420
Canada	Dollar	0.773917	0.658371	33.4472
Singapore	Dollar	0.649987	0.552944	28.0912
Australia	Dollar	0.615253	0.523396	26.5901
Bahrain	Dinar	3.118210	2.652661	134.7631
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.313484	0.266681	13.5482
Brunei	Dollar	0.648374	0.551572	28.0215
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000089	0.0045
Thailand	Baht	0.026076	0.022183	1.1270
UAE	Dirham	0.320082	0.272294	13.8334
Korea	Won	0.000915	0.000778	0.0395
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.850700	43.2181
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.434956	22.0971
France	Franc	0.152450	0.129688	6.5885
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.386031	19.6115
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.061823	3.1408
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021088	1.0713
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000439	0.0223
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.143077	7.2687
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004243	0.2156
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005113	0.2598
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021088	1.0713
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.080166	54.8757

PSE urged . . .

(From page B1)

the Philippines, the World Bank had recommended an increase in the amount of shares to be offered to the public to more than a third of a company's outstanding capital stock. This would help provide protection for minority shareholders because several significant company decisions require approval of at least two-thirds of stockholders.

The PSE requires companies planning to list in the exchange to offer shares representing only 10 to 33 percent of their market capitalization. The bigger the market capitalization, the lower the percentage of shares the PSE requires for initial listing.

In response to the suggestion about raising the minimum listing requirement, PSE chair Felipe Yap said the exchange was already looking into the matter, Bautista disclosed.

Meanwhile, Jose Aquino, director of the SEC's market regulation department, said that the SEC was reviewing the PSE's listing rules for possible revisions.

Aquino said that some foreign brokerage houses warned that the control of most of a publicly listed company's shares by a few made the market vulnerable to manipulation.

RECKLESS INVESTMENTS

Adventurism deals SSS, GSIS costly lessons

By Doris C. Dumlao

(Second of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

FORMER President Joseph Estrada's worst offense, as far as the Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System were concerned, was using these pension funds at the expense of their long-term financial sustainability.

With the admission by no less than the former heads of the SSS and GSIS that the disgraced leader benefited from transactions involving gaming firm Belle Corp., the suspicion was that he also profited from even bigger deals.

One such deal, according to well-placed government sources, was the 1999 merger of Philippine Commercial International Bank and Equitable Banking Corp.

What was unusual about the transaction was that it involved a bank gobbling up another bank that was more than twice its size. What was questionable about it was that the contributions of private and state employees for their pension and other retirement benefits were used to make the deal possible.

On May 12, 1999, Equitable, then ranked as the country's No. 10 lender, teamed up with the SSS and GSIS to buy 72 percent of PCIBank, the third largest, for P31.9 billion. The SSS and GSIS each contributed a hefty P7.5 billion, nearly half the contract price.

For most people, Estrada had a hand in the Equitable-PCIBank merger. Fugitive dealmaker Mark Jimenez admitted brokering the deal and had offered to provide the justice department, in exchange for immunity from prosecution, details about the role Estrada played in it.

Bad investments

It would have been easy to defend the deal had the SSS and GSIS profited from it. Since Equitable acquired PCIBank, however, the merged bank had run into one financial problem after another, mainly because of its association with the Estrada administration.

Last year, Equitable PCI Bank Inc. was forced to borrow some P30 billion from the government to cover heavy withdrawals at the height of Estrada's Senate impeachment trial. At the time, the bank was being implicated in the former President's money laundering activities. In one of the high points of the trial, executives of Equitable PCI Bank testified that Estrada used a fictitious name when he signed a contract that extended a P500-million loan from one of his accounts with Equitable PCI Bank to a company owned by one of his cronies.

Equitable PCI Bank's share price plunged sharply because of its involvement with Estrada. From an acquisition cost of P97 a share, its share price had dropped to P38.50 as of Friday last week.

On its own, the SSS also tried to influence another merger in November 1999. The goal was to preempt a deal then being hatched by the Ayala-controlled Bank of the Philippine Islands and No. 3 lender Far East Bank and Trust Co.

The inside story was that the Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. wanted to acquire FEBTC to keep its No. 1 ranking in the banking industry. Metrobank ran to the SSS for help. The SSS sold its 6-percent stake in FEBTC to Metrobank and bought a 5-percent interest in Metrobank, but everything stopped there. Aware of Metrobank's alliance with the SSS, the Ayala group quickly moved to close a deal with FEBTC.

Metrobank, nonetheless, was able to keep its lead in the industry by acquiring Solid Banking Corp.

Cost of adventurism

The adverse impact of the unbridled equity investments of the Estrada administration on the SSS and GSIS would easily run up to billions of pesos. These pension funds have managed to remain profitable, but the cost of their "adventurism" during the last two years has been significant.

In the SSS' case, there were at least P20 billion worth of investments that he believed his predecessor should not have gotten into, according to SSS president Vitaliano Nañagas II.

Last year, the SSS reported a net profit of around P3.98 billion, still a healthy figure considering the economic difficulties then. It was, however, a significant drop from the P13.4 billion that the SSS chalked up in 1999, P14.98 billion in 1998 and P15.08 billion in 1997.

In the GSIS' case, there was a 5-percent decline in actuarial reserves under the Estrada administration equivalent to about P9 billion. Actuarial reserves refer to the difference between the present value of future benefits and the present value of future contributions.

"This decrease in our actuarial reserves is what I'll have to patch up in the coming months," GSIS president Winston Garcia said.

Lessons

For PSE president Ramon Garcia, the biggest lesson from the SSS' and GSIS' reckless foray into the stock market is that there is no excuse to give in to political pressures.

"They should be discreet as far as the companies they invest in are concerned. They should resist pressures," Garcia said. He pointed out that Development Bank of the Philippines president Remedios Macalincag was subjected to the same pressure that Estrada exerted on the SSS and GSIS, but she stood her ground.

Garcia said the SSS and GSIS should do away with the practice of favoring only a few brokers in handling their stock market transactions.

In a recent position paper sent to the new SSS and GSIS leadership, the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines said: "We think that it is necessary for GFIs (government financial institutions) to refrain from engaging in highly controversial and questionable takeover transactions where they are used to acquire a large block of a listed or a non-listed firm, thereby gaining a considerable stake with the sole intent of profiteering and future sell-off to the highest bidder as this creates undue influence on the share price."

While making a profit is one of the fundamental concerns of any institution, ASAP believes the SSS and GSIS should also help provide stability and order to the marketplace.

"It is also our unswerving call for the GFIs to dissuade their officers from engaging in private transactions that raise suspicions, valid or not. Such officers should only have minimal exposure in the market, if at all, to avoid conflicts of interest," ASAP added.

There are allegations that with their presence in the boards of several listed companies, top officers of the SSS and GSIS have the undue advantage of getting inside information and can, therefore, profit from it.

Nañagas said during his predecessor's time, the SSS' staff had problems documenting stock transactions.

"Trading should be left to the professionals and to the people who can keep up. At that time, (SSS president) Chuckie (Arellano) himself was trading, and his people were trying to catch up with the documentation. Otherwise, how would they know what he bought and how do they know what he sold?" he asked.

Former Finance Secretary Ramon del Rosario Jr., vice chair of the Phinma group and chair of AB Capital & Investment Corp., said the SSS and GSIS should learn from past mistakes and champion the cause of good corporate governance in the country.

"They should invest in companies that not only have viable and promising businesses but also promote the interests of all their stakeholders and are transparent in the way they run their businesses," Del Rosario said. "They should avoid investing in transactions that are hatched in clandestine backroom deals. Such a policy would be beneficial not only in promoting transparency and good governance in the local market but also for their investment returns as well."

"Had such a policy been practiced, the SSS and GSIS could have avoided the monumental losses they now sit on when their previous administrators gleefully acquiesced to deals brokered by our former political leaders," Del Rosario said. *(To be continued)*

Foreign firm acquires RFM tuna operations

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp. yesterday announced the sale of its tuna business under the Blue Bay brand as part of continuing efforts to raise funds to meet maturing bond obligations that can reach $65 million.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, RFM assistant corporate secretary Cristina Reyes said RFM's subsidiary Swift Tuna Corp. had sold its trademark Blue Bay to foreign firm Canter Management Ltd.

Blue Bay contributes about P3 billion in annual revenue to the RFM group, based on estimates from analysts. However, RFM did not disclose the amount involved in the Blue Bay deal and its officials were not available to give any additional information.

RFM consolidated its profitable tuna division under Swift in 1998 with the introduction of the Swift Blue Bay local brand. At that time, RFM also accounted for 17 percent of total Philippine exports of canned tuna.

The Blue Bay brand is currently among the top three brands in the Philippines.

In a separate statement to the PSE yesterday, RFM CFO Meldin Al Roy reiterated that the company would need more time to honor its obligation to bondholders.

The bonds were issued in May 1996 in the principal amount of $65 million, maturing in 2006 with an interest rate of 2.75 percent a year. However, the holders of the bonds were supposed to have the option to redeem their bonds at a price equal to 128.71 percent of the principal amount. The redemption date fell due last May 30.

The tuna business is the third major asset sold by the RFM group this year. It earlier disposed of its 34-percent stake in semiconductor subsidiary PSi Technologies Holdings Inc. for $32 million. Combined with proceeds from the sale of thrift bank unit Consumer Savings Bank, the RFM group has now raised a total of $36 million.

With the sale of these assets, Roy said RFM would "be able to substantially reduce the outstanding amount due under the bonds."

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243-0128 · 244-8913

ALABANG
Citibank-Frabelle Bldg., Alabang-Zapote Rd.
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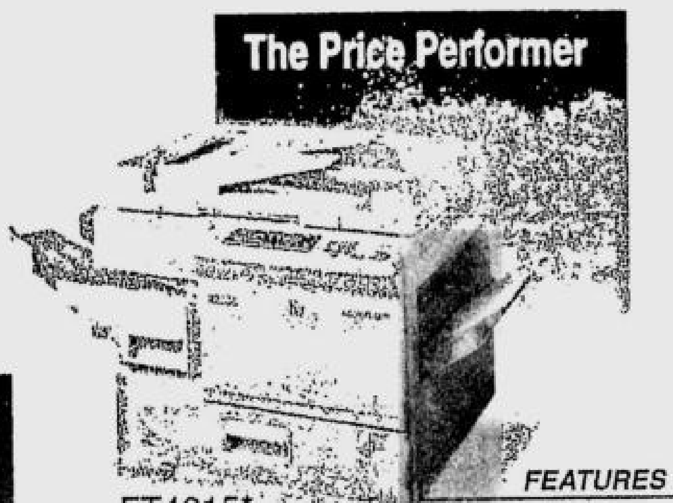
- 250 sheet tray + 80 sheet bypass tray
- 10 users code
- Energy saver



The Price Performer

FT4615*

FEATURES
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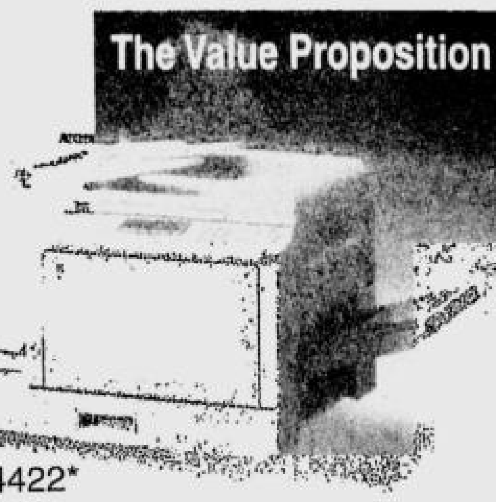
- Reducer/Enlarger 50% - 200%
- Maximum copy size: A3 (11' x 17')
- 500 sheet tray + 80 sheet bypass tray
- 10 user codes
- Energy saver



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REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

DOJ orders Taipan Place owners, developers charged with estafa

Uys fail to deliver ₱14.5-M industrial lot title

BY JERRY ESPLANADA

FOR their failure to deliver the title of a supposedly industrial lot in Cavite worth at least P14.5 million, the owners and developers of a plush condominium in Pasig City have been ordered charged with estafa by the Department of Justice.

The DOJ also reversed a resolution issued earlier by the Pasig City prosecutor's office dismissing a similar case filed against businessman Salvador Uy and his daughter, Charmaine Uy, president and vice president of the real estate firm Daiichi Properties and Development Inc. and owners of Taipan Place in Ortigas Center.

The case was filed by Rodolfo Samson, president of the private company Samson Enterprises Inc.

Probable cause

In a May 15 joint resolution, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno and Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Leonardo Guiyab Jr. said they found "probable cause to indict the respondents for estafa, defined and penalized under Article 315, par. 2 of the Revised Penal Code."

The "corresponding information" should also be filed in court against Salvador and Charmaine Uy, they also said.

DOJ records showed that the respondents had "entered into a contract to sell for the purchase of a parcel of land, identified as Lot 1, Block 9, with an area of 4,885 square meters, in Silang, Cavite."

"Charmaine Uy was the one who actively transacted for and in behalf of Daiichi Properties and Development Inc., and she was even the one who represented DPDI when the complainant made a reservation for the exclusive option, right and privilege of buying the subject property on Feb. 19, 1997. Salvador Uy was the one who represented and signed the contract to sell for and in behalf of DPDI on Feb. 20, 1997."

Under the contract to sell, Salvador Uy represented that the DPDI was the "titled owner in fee of the sold lot and that after payment by (Samson) of the agreed purchase price, DPDI will execute a deed of absolute sale in complainant's favor and deliver title to it."

On March 24, 1998, Samson had "completely paid the amount of P14,565,000 as full consideration of the sold property."

No title

"To date, however, the respondents failed to make good its part of the bargain, that is delivering the title to Samson, as it appears that DPDI has no title yet to the said property," the justice department said.

The DOJ noted that "had it not been for the representation of the respondents, which in this case amounts to false pretense, that DPDI has title to the subject property and can deliver the same to Samson when due, the complainant would not have parted with its hard-earned money in the amount of P14.5 million."

"Human nature dictates that no person in his right mind would release such sizeable amount if he is not assured that he would receive the other end of the deal. Simply put, there is here a false representation of a matter by conduct, by concealment of that which should have been disclosed which deceived or was intended to deceive Samson so that it shall act upon it to its legal injury," according to State Prosecutor Mary Josephine Lazaro.

The respondents, the DOJ said, "while admitting that DPDI really has no title yet to the property, blames the inconsistencies appearing in the pro-forma contract to sell to their office staff who prepared the same as no amendments were made thereon to conform to the real terms of the transaction."

"Undisputedly, the contract to sell was prepared by the seller in this transaction which is no less than DPDI. Hence, any irregularity, inconsistency or error found therein should be attributed to it. Moreover, the respondents slept on such error when it took them years to justify the same or only when confronted did they try to."

Violation

The DOJ pointed out that "where the terms of an agreement have been reduced to writing, it is considered as containing all the terms agreed upon and there can be, between the parties and their successor in interest, no evidence of such terms other than the contents of the written agreement."

It also turned out that "the subject lot is not part of an industrial project approved by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, precisely because it was not a titled property. Consequently, the license to sell issued by the HLURB did not include this property. Thus, a violation of Section 5 of Presidential Decree no. 957," said Ricardo Rivera, Samson's counsel.

"After receiving P14.5 million, the Uys failed, despite demands, to deliver the land title to Samson Enterprises Inc., prompting the latter to sue for estafa and for violation of PD 957," Rivera said.

Warning

According to Rivera, "this piece of information will certainly warn the public against hasty and dubious real estate investment, especially when the developers or sellers are known to have pending estafa cases."

Salvador and Charmaine Uy are also the owners and developers of Daiichi Industrial Park and Mountain View Industrial Park, both in Cavite, and the Lee Garden Condominium on Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City.

The DOJ has asked father and daughter to answer the charges against them.

British School Manila introduces new concept in campus construction

SCALE model of the British School Manila at the Global City

A NEW concept in campus construction is fast unfolding at Fort Bonifacio's Global City.

The innovative design was conceptualized by Australian-based architectural firm Corker Denton Marshall for the new campus of The British School Manila (BSM).

Corker Denton Marshall has also designed other renowned British schools in Jakarta and Hong Kong, according to BSM school head Helen Kinsey-Wightman.

The new BSM campus, which will be completed in time for its opening in September, is also geared to accommodate the growing school population and meet the demands of the 21st century. The campus has a total land area of 3.4 hectares, with an option for another hectare in 2002

Curved roofing

The structures feature distinctive curved roofing to exude movement and excitement. Leading local architects from Recio + Casas are implementing and developing the designs of Corker Denton Marshall, particularly the bright, colorful classroom interior.

In a joint venture with the Philippine-based Lopez group, world-renowned British construction firm Balfour Beatty is the project's main contractor. Balfour has done numerous projects in the Philippines over the last four years.

Drawing these groups together is Don Jones, the architect and project director of the original British School Manila in Merville Park.

BSM trademark

To maintain the BSM trademark—"small school" feeling, classrooms are designed in clusters, each having eight standard classrooms with four shared spaces. Children are grouped in clusters according to age.

The ground floor of the senior block contains a multimedia library and audio-visual facilities. On the second floor are the science laboratories and three specialized classrooms for special education needs and modern foreign languages. The third floor has two state-of-the-art Information Communications Technology suites.

In the future there will be suites for Design Technology and for Food Technology, with kitchen and classroom spaces.

The administration building has a spectacular curved roof and a unique two-level drop-off that allows for additional car parking spaces below and ensures the safety of the children above. On its ground floor are the medical center and the refectory, conveniently located near the play areas. The music and drama room is on the second floor, together with the art and design studio. The third floor houses the administration offices.

Other structures

The main hall measures 1,000 square meters and has a seating capacity of 800. It is an all-purpose hall for assemblies, school productions and as a gym.

The covered play area will be used for basketball, volleyball, netball and badminton. There is also a soccer pitch and athletics field, while the swimming complex has both a sun-shaded infants pool and a 25-meter competition swimming pool. Built into the exterior of the main hall are 30-meter bleachers that can seat up to 120 spectators.

Providing first-class facilities and world-standard education, The British School Manila can be reached through phone numbers 824-7311, website www.britishschoolmanila.org or e-mail admissions @britishschoolmanila.org.

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LAGUNA BELAIR III
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ONLINE SHOWCASE

Laguna BelAir, a successful township project of Empire East Land Holdings in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, has launched www.lagunabelair.com.ph as an online showcase for the American-style model houses at Phase 1 of Laguna BelAir III. From the contemporary Audrey, Brenna, Chloe and Daphne to the classic Corinne 2, Denise 2 and Francine 2, the house-and-lot packages come in bungalow and two story models with floor areas from 51 to 105 sq. m. Individual lots from 120 to 260 sq. m. are also available.

Gov't housing finance firm to foreclose delinquent home loans

STARTING next month, the mortgages on its housing loan accounts, which are delinquent in payments for at least 24 months, will be foreclosed by the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp.

Lawyer Angelico T. Salud, NHMFC president, said however, that prior to the filing of foreclosure proceedings, the NHMFC will publish in major news dailies the list of delinquent borrowers to provide them due notice and enable them to update their accounts within 30 days from publication and save their accounts from foreclosure.

Salud also informed that delinquent borrowers may still avail themselves of the opportunity to update their payments under the loan penalty condonation program being implemented by the NHMFC, which is set to expire on June 30 this year.

The housing loan penalty condonation scheme is available under the Housing Loan Condonation Act of 1998, or Republic Act 8501.

Under the loan relief scheme, the accumulated loan penalties of a delinquent borrower may be waived when he either fully pays his outstanding loan account; pays his monthly arrearages; or when he restructures his loan, where the delinquent amortizations will be added on to his outstanding balance to be amortized monthly over the remaining term of the loan, after he makes a nominal down payment.

Through the loan updating options, the loan penalties will be waived up to 100 percent, or proportionate to the amount of arrearages to be paid by the borrower, Salud pointed out.

By availing himself of the loan relief, a borrower will save himself from paying loan penalties and incurring costly litigation expenses attendant to foreclosure.

Interested borrowers may proceed to the nearest NHMFC office or to the NHMFC loan counseling unit at the One-Stop-Shop Center, at the ground and fourth floors of Filomena Bldg., 104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Int'l confab on construction arbitration slated Friday

THE CONSTRUCTION Industry Arbitration Commission (Ciac) and the Philippine Institute of Construction Arbitrators (Pica) will hold its 1st international conference on construction arbitration on Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the New World Renaissance Hotel, Esperanza Street corner Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Foreign speakers for the conference are engineer Peter S. Caldwell and engineer-lawyer Teresa Y. W. Cheng. Both have considerable experience in international arbitration of construction disputes.

Caldwell will discuss modes of fast-tracking arbitration of a construction dispute, while Cheng will tackle alternative modes of dispute resolution employed by the Hong Kong government for the core airport alternative dispute resolution (ADR) program.

The other speakers are lawyer Victor P. Lazatin of Accra law office, and UP professor and National Amnesty Commission chair Alfredo F. Tadiar. Lazatin will discuss the arbitration procedure under the Ciac arbitration rules while Tadiar will discuss the little known and often misunderstood subject of court diversion of construction disputes for arbitration.

Supreme Court Associate Justice Josue N. Bellosillo has been invited as guest speaker.

The Ciac was created by Executive Order 1008, which is vested with original and exclusive jurisdiction over disputes arising from or connected with private and/or government construction contracts through arbitration. Pica is an organization of technical professionals and lawyers experienced in construction disputes who have been accredited as arbitrators by the Ciac.

For local participants, a conference participation fee of P3,000 shall be charged while foreign participants shall be charged US$100 each to cover lunch, snacks and material handouts. For reservations, fax at 807-9313 or e-mail ciapciac@info.com.ph.

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IcFox to launch construction e-commerce in Philippines

LIKE many industries, the construction sector is faced with inherent inefficient practices such as high protectionism, localized markets, low transparency, multiple regulations, fragmented market information and a multilayered supply chain.

As a response to today's networked enterprises and global markets, IcFox was formed in Hong Kong by three construction industry leaders—David Langdon and Seah, Paul Y-ITC Group and the Hanny Group.

Said IcFox International CEO Tom Lau: "We are not a technology in search of an application. We are the construction industry moving from the old economy to the new, bringing together the best of the best in construction expertise and technology to make our industry more effective, and ultimately, more profitable."

Business model

The Philippine construction industry, through IcFox Philippines Inc., will soon benefit from its cooperative and all-inclusive business model allowing users to share global expertise, international network, and top information technology know-how unmatched in the industry through IcFox business and technology partners which include Citadon, BroadVision, BNBM Digital, Veritas, FusionActive , SMS Shopfront and Hewlett Packard.

The construction industry is the world's largest in terms of revenues. It employs roughly 15 percent of the world's workforce.

According to Forrester research, online trade in construction is expected to reach US$43.7 billion in 2004. The Asia-Pacific construction market alone is worth more than US$1 trillion per year.

Business enabling platforms

Three "business enabling" platforms benefit the members through market transparency, streamline supply chain, faster and easier project management, and better access to opportunities and information. These are the following:

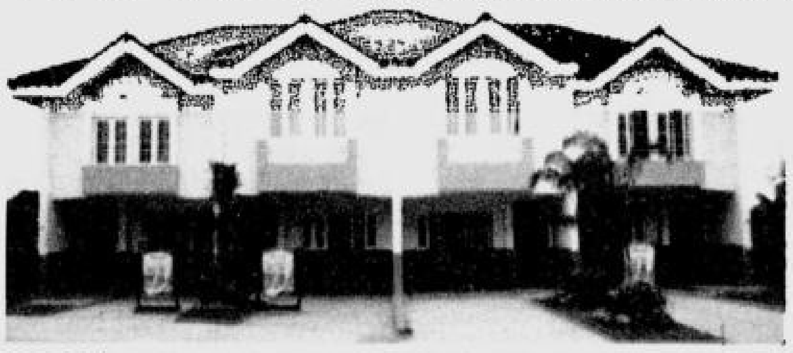
- Service exchange comprises a comprehensive collection of construction-related services. The most important of which is ProjectNet developed by Citadon, one of the world's leading construction software developers. ProjectNet is a project management collaboration tool that enables all project team members to communicate and share documents anytime, anywhere. It allows project participants to upload, download and view project files, to capture and track all documentation and to facilitate viewing and marking up of CAD drawings.
- Business exchange encompasses two proprietary trading solutions that create a dynamic pricing environment for buyers and sellers. The first, tendering, allows developers and clients to post their tender documents electronically and facilitate buying requirements. The second, auction, is a seller's trading solutions designed for the posting of offers onto a common platform.
- Information exchange is a professionally assembled construction library with an intelligent search engine. The global library covers all construction-related information which include country-by-country directories (developers, contractors/consultants, suppliers, etc.), rules and regulations, construction standards, codes of practice, manuals, practice notes, industry reports, new products and services together with research and development news.

The enormous market and advantages of taking business online are the reasons IcFox is now rolling out in China, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Brunei and Australia. By the end of this year, IcFox will have links into Japan, Europe, South Africa and North America.

ROBINSONS PLACE PASIG HOLDS TOPPING-OFF CEREMONIES

Robinsons Land Corp., one the country's most dynamic real estate companies, recently held the topping off ceremonies of Robinsons Place Pasig, its latest shopping mall development located on Marcos Highway corner Imelda Avenue. This event signifies the structural completion of the 5-level shopping mall, which is expected to open during the third quarter of this year. Shown from left are RLC senior project engineer Feleo A. Gines; Robinsons Place Pasig lease manager Luigi Gimenez; mall architect Jhun H. dela Peña; Robinsons Place Pasig's complex adminstration officer Eric Viray; RLC senior project manager Ronald G. Paulo; Palafox and Associates architect consultant Dennis A. Villanueva, project coordinator and senior designer Romano E. Samson and senior partner Larry Santos; RLC vice president for complex administration Tommy Lee O, VP for corporate planning Nicky G. Villanueva and engineering manager Jose C. San Buenaventura; Monolith Contruction and Development Corp. president Manuel S. Mendoza; and Constech Management Group Inc. president Arthur P. Carlos.

70 townhouses available at Villa Alegria



MARGA is a 60-sq.-m house at Villa Alegria.

LEADING property developer Crown Asia presents a master-planned community in a townhouse setting with Villa Alegria in the bustling Novaliches district.

Seventy villa-style townhouses are available in an exclusive estate with concrete-fenced surroundings, wide roads, 24-hour security services, complete water as well as electric and communication utilities. Amenities include a multipurpose hall, a wading pool, a basketball court and park.

The two-story villas are priced from as low as P1.6 million. Marga is a 60-square-meter house with two bedrooms, toilet and bath and covered carport. Call 726-0083 to 84 for inquiries or visit the Crown Asia website at http://www.crownasia.com.ph.

Road elevation project on Sandoval Avenue

INFRASTRUCTURE development is one of the key initiatives of the city government of Pasig to keep pace with the rapid growth in population, vehicular traffic and business activities.

Pasig has witnessed the emergence of leading business establishments, subdivisions and schools that has made it one of the most progressive cities in the country. Among the viable projects being directly implemented by Pasig City are the upgrading of roads and construction of drainage system within the Barangay Pinagbuhatan area.

According to the city engineer's office, the project involves elevating portions of Sandoval and Mercedes avenues to ensure that these will be all-weather roads. These connecting avenues will be elevated by an average of 16 inches to level with the highest road grade in front of Republic Asahi.

The site being one of the major developing areas in Pasig is expected to further increase its business activities as it becomes more accessible and convenient to middle-income families who plans to settle in the area. Moreover Barangay Pinagbuhatan is strategically located within minutes from the Ortigas, Cubao and Makati Central Business Districts.

The Department of Public Works and Highways and the Pasig City government are spearheading the project in connection with the national plan to implement flood control and road upgrading projects in Metro Manila. A three-year timetable has been set for the said project.

Realtors set golf tourney

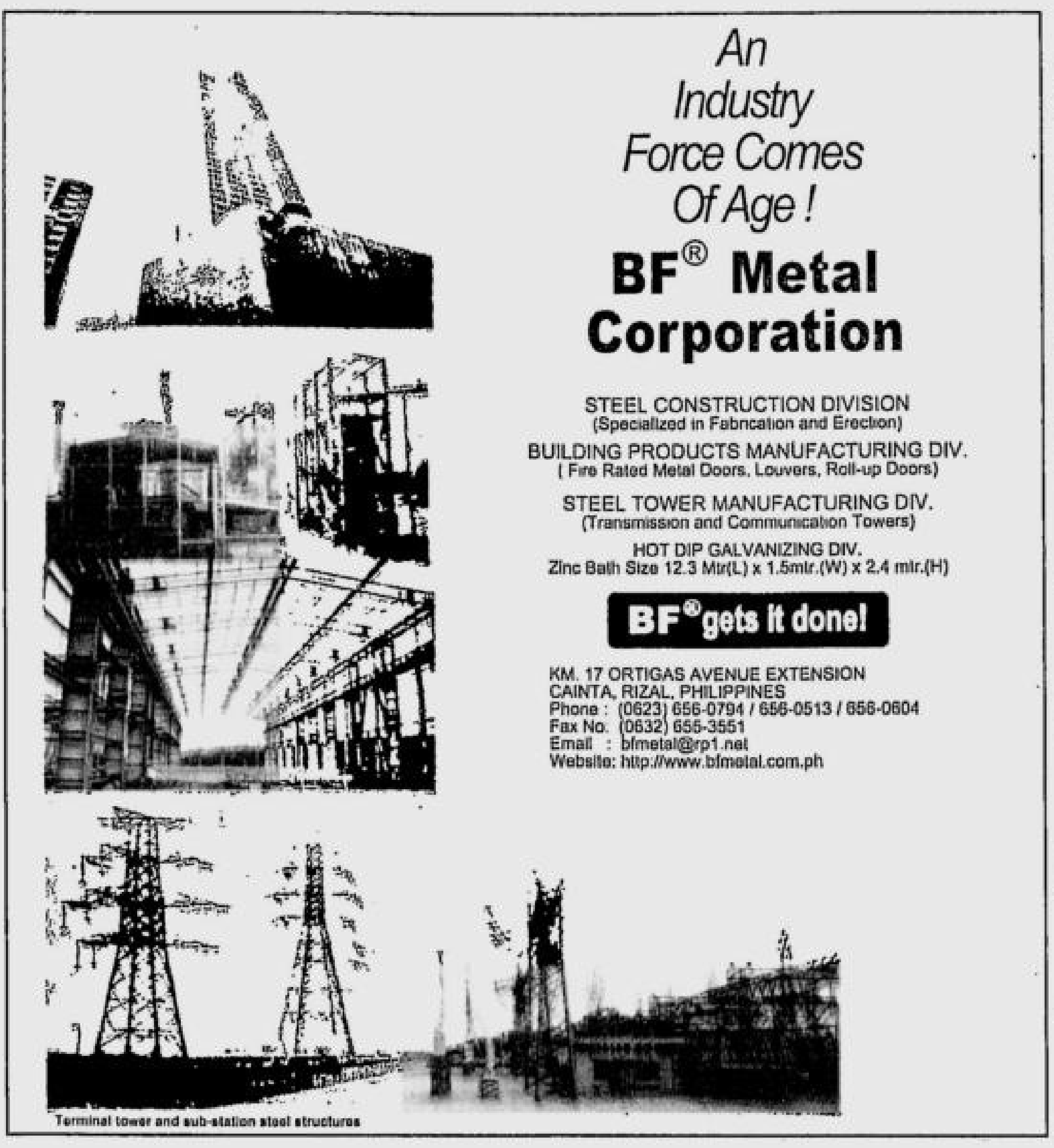
THE 3RD annual Chairman's Cup Invitational Golf Tournament of the National Real Estate Association will tee off starting 7 a.m. on Friday at the all-weather Eastridge Golf Course in Binangonan, Rizal.

Part of NREA's year-round sports and physical development program, the golf event is in honor of the association's incumbent chair and founder, Jose V. Manalad, according to NREA sports committee chair Nestor B. Bangal.

Leading golf enthusiast-friends have been invited to fire the ceremonial ball, including Sen. Rodolfo G. Biazon and NBI director Reynaldo G. Wycoco.

All NREA members as well as golfer-friends from both government and private sectors are invited to join the tournament.

For details, participants and sponsors may all up the NREA secretariat at 913-4463 and 912-3492.



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Rate cut his consumers in the right spot

WITH FUEL prices rising and school tuition moving up, it's no wonder that mothers like Marie Perez are trying their best to find ways to fit all their needs into their limited budgets. However, unlike other moms, Perez has a special problem: she lives with her family in Davao while one of her sons works in Iloilo and a daughter studies in a small college in Manila, thus making her phone bill a major cost in the household.

"There are times when the landline bill go almost as high as what I'm paying for electricity," says the mother of five.

That's why PLDT's decision to cut its rate for subscribers to a flat P3 per minute when they call other PLDT subscribers, regardless of where they are in the Philippines, comes as a welcome relief for Perez. "Of course, now we can stay in touch more often and longer, which in the end will allow me to save more because we don't have to travel as much to see each other."

"It used to be that I'd have to pay a different rate if I'm calling from Davao to my daughter in Manila, and another rate if I'm calling my son in Iloilo. With a flat rate of P3 per minute, making calls and budgeting my phone bills is a lot easier." PLDT's old rate resulted in Perez having to figure out how much each call would cost. A call from Davao to Iloilo would have cost P6.05 under PLDT's old rates, while the one to Manila would have been P6.60. Both will now cost her a flat rate.

The benefits from the rate cut will benefit PLDT subscribers even if they call non-PLDT landlines. Under the new plan, calls from PLDT landlines will also be charged rates from P3.50 to P5 per minute depending on the distance, which is up to a 30-percent rate reduction. Rosario Y. de Guzman, who works at a bank in Makati, says the biggest problem for calls to her friends in Isabela and Iloilo used to be the heavy NDD charges. "Staying in touch with these new rates is definitely much cheaper, even if I'm calling a non-PLDT phone. It's a big gain for me because now I can really call my friends often."

Many of us used to have Marie's problem in varying degrees: How to stay in touch with a brother or sister in Cebu, with relatives in Iloilo, or with a business in Tarlac, or even Davao? How to contact classmates now in the provinces for that reunion? And how to make sure that if we used phones with long distance dialing, that we wouldn't be charged an arm and a leg for calls made by any Juan, Jose or Pedro who could get his hands on the phone? Of course, we could make fewer and shorter calls – but that wouldn't be good, either for business or relationships.

With PLDT's new rates, these problems promise to be a thing of the past. The new rate structure is also being offered through other PLDT products such as the postpaid landline, PLDT Teletipid, Touchcard and Fonkard Plus.

Those who have not activated NDD on their phones can participate in PLDT's promo "NDDiscover the Philippines." Subscribers who activate NDD or DDD on their telephones from May 15 to August 15 will automatically be entered in a raffle. Winners will be chosen for a Boracay, Puerto Galera or Palawan cruise on board the Coco Explorer, or visit Vigan, Corregidor, Pearl Farm, the Underground River in Palawan, or Bohol.

As an added benefit, PLDT provides for free a DDD security code that allows customers to lock the NDD or IDD in their phones by dialing a sequence of numbers on the keypad. They can then unlock the phones with their PIN whenever they need to access IDD or NDD.

Miriam High School opens classes on June 13

MIRIAM College High School principal Suzanne Yupangco announced the opening of classes for the high school department of Miriam College on June 13. Classes on the first day will start at 7:30 a.m. and end at 2:10 p.m. for all year levels. For information, call 927-8581or 927-2421 loc. 262.

LIMPE'S 8TH SOLO SHOW

Distinguished VIP guests of businessman-painter Julius Limpe cut the ceremonial ribbon on his 8th Solo Show. Shown is (from left) Dr. Jaime C. Laya, chair of the National Commission for Culture and Arts, Joyce Limpe-Uychiaoco, VP-administration of Destileria Limtuaco, Armita Rufino, president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, painter Julius Limpe, Lily Limpe and Beth Valera.

Launch Symposium
"Why topical ste...ds, as a single age... therapy, do n... w... in eczem

FUCIDIN H LAUNCH

Leo Pharma recently launched Fucidin H at Edsa Shangri-la. Shown from left is Kingston Sia, regional marketing manager, ARO, Leo Pharma Asia; Dr. Teresita Callueng, Dr. Socover Oblepias, Dr. Angela Tomacruz Cumagun, Dr. John McFadden, guest speaker (center); Miyos Mitra, product manager, Leo Pharma Phils.; Dr. Ma. Elena Villacorta, Dr. Ma. Victoria Dizon, Dr. Elizabeth Amelia Tianco; Jaryll Chan, regional product manager, ARO, Leo Pharma Asia, and Edwin T. Añonuevo, country manager, Leo Pharma Phils.

AMA QUICK COUNT CITED

The unofficial tally of the AMA Education System (Amaes), which resulted in an 8-4-1 senatorial count in the Eleksyon 2001 All Media Coverage was cited for its role in providing an objective, rapid and reliable computerized election quick count. GMA-7 gave credit to AMA for having been able to tally 20 percent of the total number of votes for the first 48 hours after the May 14 elections through its 6,000 student and employee volunteers stationed in the 60 colleges and 140 learning centers of the AMA Education System nationwide. The thanksgiving dinner, dubbed as "Saludo Kami" held last week at the GMA-7 Network Center, was also attended by Eleksyon 2001 media partners Philippine Daily Inquirer, Smart and PLDT. Above, from left, is Fr. Federico Pascual of Radio Veritas; lawyer Ray Espinosa, e-PLDT managing director; Manny Pangilinan, PLDT chair; lawyer Henry Gozon, GMA Network Inc. chair/president; Gilberto Duavit Jr., GMA executive vice president; Bobby Barreiro (standing), GMA SVP-sales and marketing and AMA EVP Manuel F. Abad.

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Notice is given that the estate of the late CORAZON S. CAMAYA has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs on Dec. 4, 2000 under Doc.#499 Page#101 Book#XXXIX Series 2000 Before Notary Public Arturo A. Dimain of Pasig City PDI June 12, 19, 26, 2001

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the loss of ACR (Alien Certificate of Registration) under the name of ESTER SISON KEMPER If no contest presented, new certificate will be issued.Call 847-1075. *(PDI -- June 12, 2001)*

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces.)

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raised the
Lord Jesus
from
death.
He will
raise us to
life with
Jesus.
He will
present
us, along
with you,
to God.

2 Cor. 4:14

ALFREDO C. CAPATI, SR.

Died in the Grace of our Lord on June 8, 2001
at the age of 71.

His loving wife **Marina**; children, **Alma** and **Jonathan**, **Dickson**, **Armando** and **Julieta Capati**, **Fanny**, **Myrna**, **Alfredo, Jr.**, **Chona** and **Ernesto Macam**, **Josefina** and **Ferdinand Trinidad**, **Ma. Theresa** and **Severino Escobar, Jr.**, **Arnold** and **Shirley Capati**, **Romeo** and **Ofelia Capati**, **Philip** and **Ma. Judith** (†); grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul and happiness in Heaven.

He will forever be remembered as a good husband, a loving father, and a true friend.

His remains lie in state at 1114 Rizal St., St. Jude Bldg., Cabanatuan City. Interment will be on June 16, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Sanctuario de Sto. Niño Parish Church, Kapitan Pepe, Cabanatuan City

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"Come to Me, all you who are weary, and burdened, and I will give you rest."
(Matthew 11:28)

LEONILA R. SANTOS ESTRELLA

A good mother passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on June 10, 2001 at the age of 85
to join her husband, NICASIO and daughter AMELITA in heaven.

Her beloved children **Arthur & Dolly**, **Armando & Marie**, **Alberto & Fe**, **Adelina & Dave Molina**, **Avelino & Carol**, **Tony Anduiza**, **Augusto & Mila**, **Antonio & Baby** and **Abelardo & Lyn**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request everyone to rejoice with them to her return to our Creator and Redeemer.

Her remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 14, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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which can die. God made us
for this very reason and
He has given us the Spirit
as a guarantee that we will
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2 Cor. 5:4-5

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Card of Thanks

We, the family of the late

MARVIN JOHN FERNANDEZ

who died on May 23, 2001

wish to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to you who condoled with us, offered Mass and Prayers, visited and kept vigil, sent flowers and notes of sympathy, attended the Holy Mass and funeral rites and in many other ways helped and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

We hope that you continue to remember our beloved son in your prayers.

Erning & Evelyn Fernandez Family

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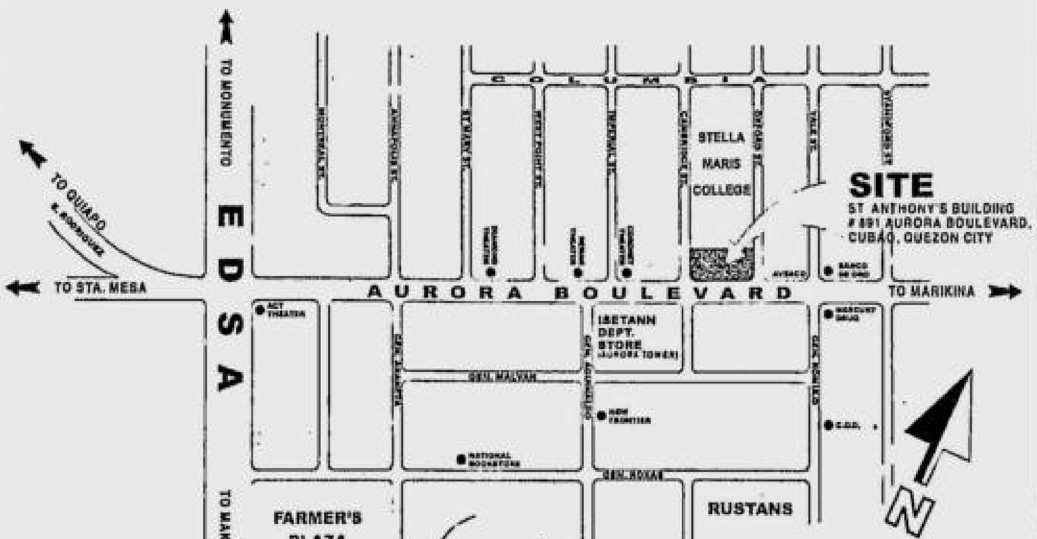

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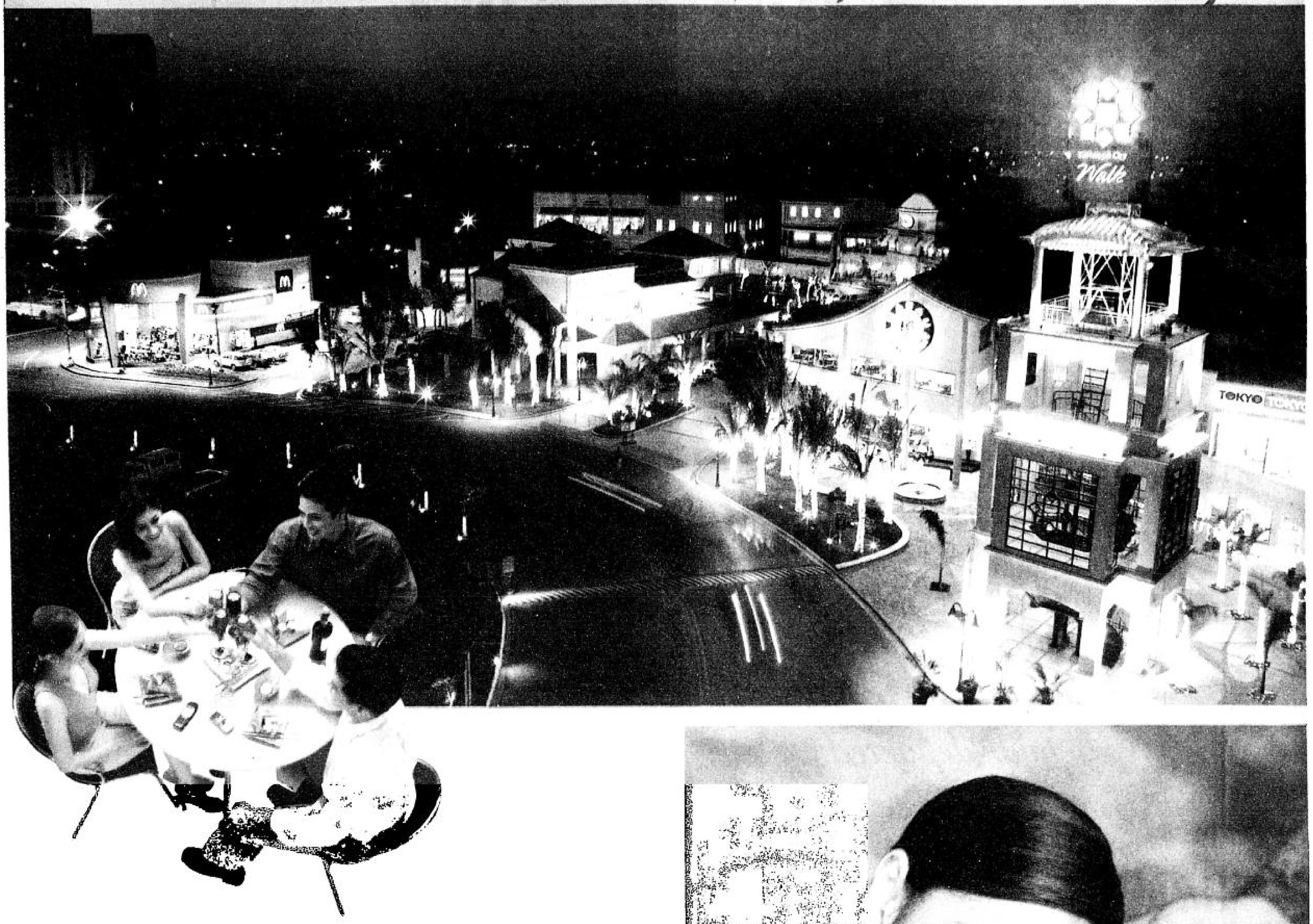

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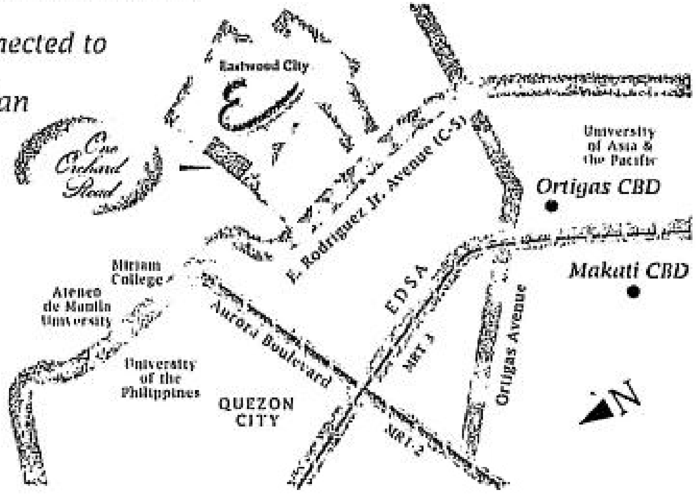
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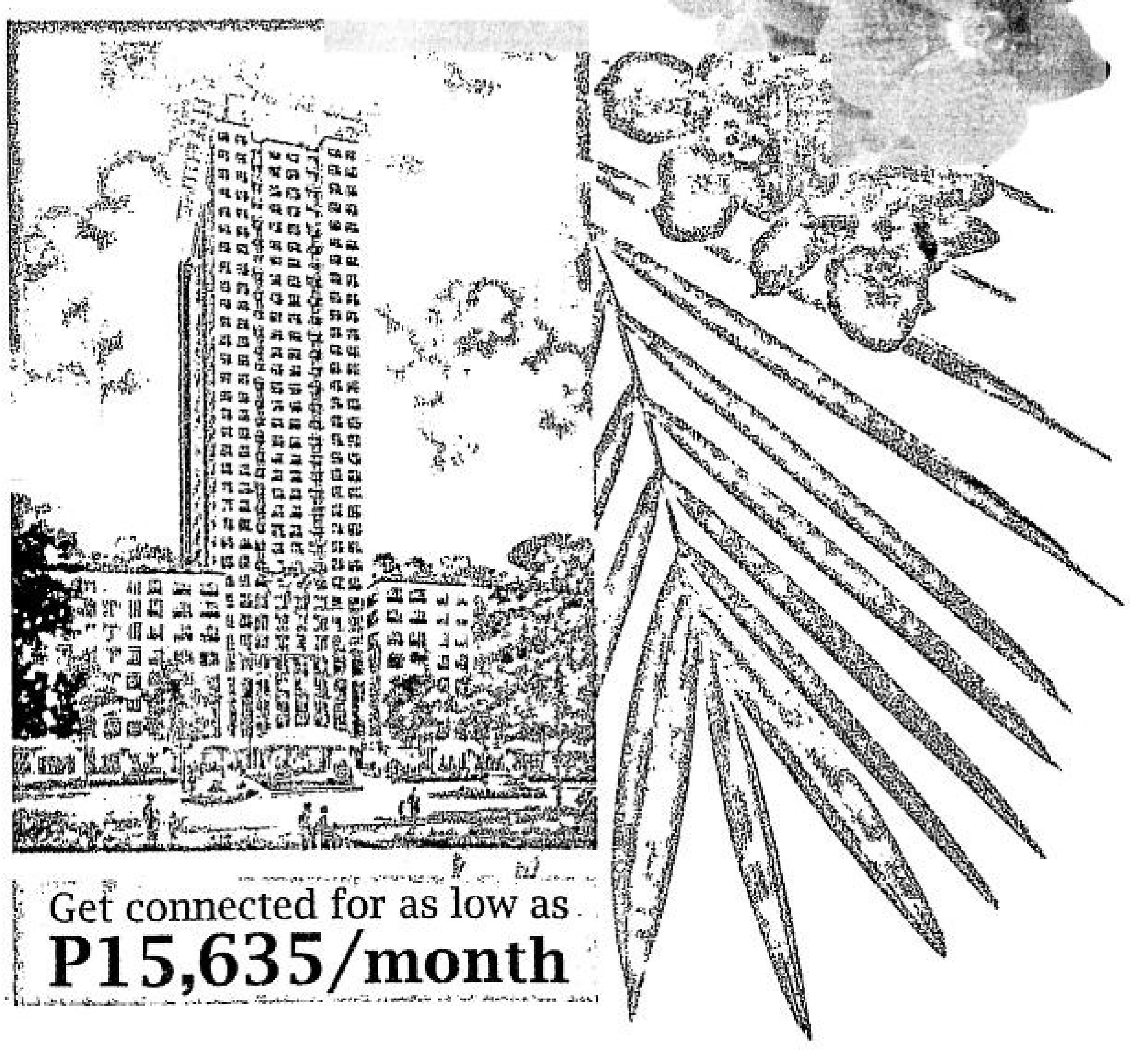

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Scientific principles to guide you in keeping fit

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

ASIDE from the principle of specificity that states you only get good at what you train for, there are other scientific fitness principles that govern the process of getting and staying fit. To understand why your body is not developing the same way as your workout buddy or how you get the results you want from your program, you need to be aware of these principles.

Overload principle

To see any kind of fitness improvement, you need to "overload" or stress the body slightly more than what it is used to. Gradually increase the overload until you reach your desired level or goal. If you increase the overload too quickly, the body doesn't have time to adapt and becomes injured or overstressed.

For example, if you have been sedentary for 10 years, a 15-minute leisurely walk three times a week is the initial overload you need to get aerobically fit. Doing 60 minutes of walking right away can lead to sore muscles, fatigue and breathlessness. However, if you increase your walking time by five to 10 minutes a week, your body will adapt quite nicely and before you know it, you can walk for an hour without feeling like you have been on the Bataan Death March. The amount of time you walk is not the only overload you can use. You can also challenge yourself by increasing the intensity or frequency. Just don't do it all at once. Change only one overload at a time and your body will be able to adapt safely.

To get stronger muscles, you need to use a different overload. Remember the principle of specificity? Aerobic workouts specifically increase your aerobic stamina and endurance, but they will not give you stronger muscles. Resistance training of some kind (free weights, machines, body weight, rubber bands, etc.) is what will do the trick.

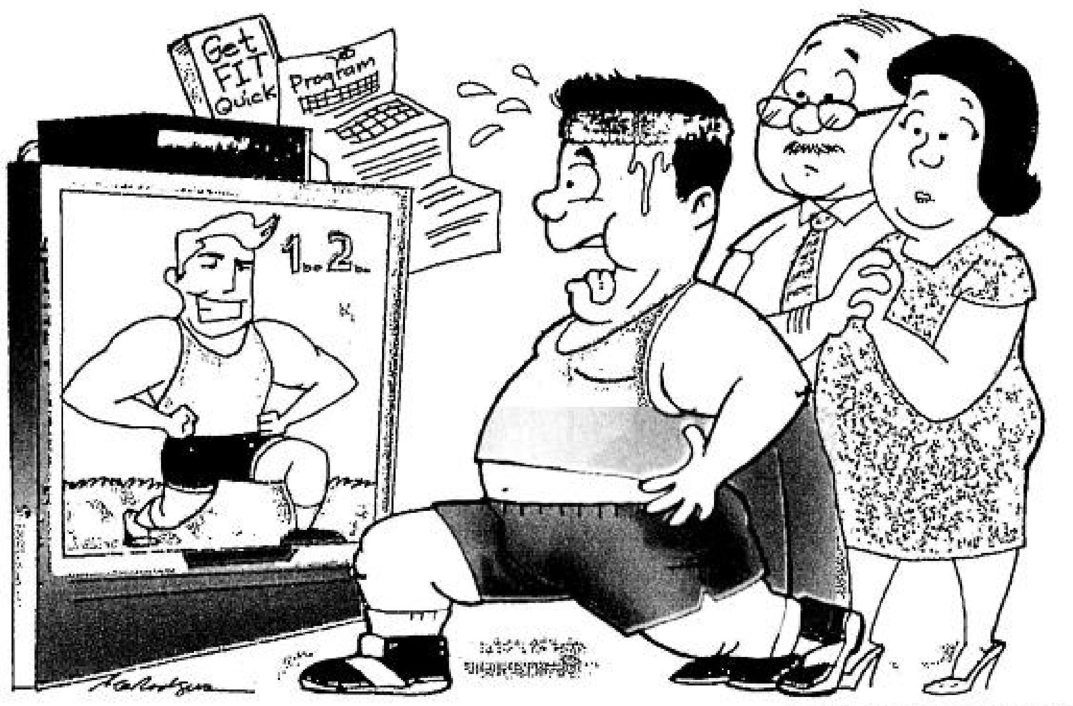


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The most obvious overload is the amount of weight you lift, but it is not the only one. You can also change the overload with the speed at which you lift, the sequence of your exercises, the number of repetitions and sets or the type of resistance used.

People frequently complain they are not getting the results they want from their workout programs. One reason could be that they are not applying the overload principle.

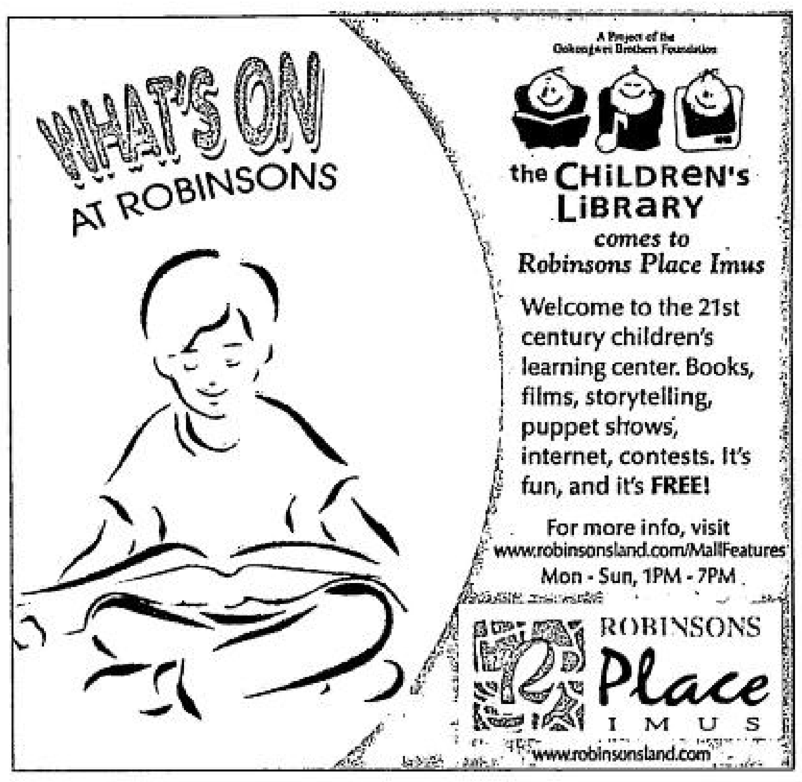
Now common sense tells us that we cannot keep increasing the overload because, no matter how fit we are, the body can only take so much exercise. Burnout and injury are the inevitable results of continuously increasing the overload. This is where the concept of "periodization" comes in. This is a method of alternating intense and less intense periods of exercise so the body has time to recover.

Overcompensation principle

This is related to the overload principle. It explains how the body adapts to any overload. A simple example of overcompensation is a callus. It is the body's attempt to protect a part of your body that is being subjected to constant friction or pressure. The body doesn't just repair the area with the same kind of skin. It overcompensates by developing slightly harder

SCIENTIFIC/ p.C2

One cannot compare oneself to others, blindly follow their exercise programs and expect the same results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Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr. Godofredo C. Godoy has been with MEDICard's list of accredited providers for the past 5 years. He earned his Medicine Degree at RTR – Makati Medical Center School of Medicine and later on specialized in Internal Medicine and Occupational Medicine. He finished his residency at The Philippine General Hospital. Doctor Godoy is currently a member of American Academy of Family Physicians and other numerous organizations. He is still very much single and so he enjoys going out a lot especially on out of town trips. He is currently holding clinic at Makati Medical Center. For consultations, you can visit him at Suite 373 of Makati Medical Center. Clinic hours are M-W-F, 9AM-12NN; T-TH 1:30-4PM

Dr. Mary Anne Luciano –Amon is one of MEDICard's dermatologists based in Makati Medical Center. She is a graduate of the University of Santo Tomas and she joined MEDICard way back 1995. Doc Me-ann have been well loved by MEDICard patients ever since because aside from possessing a pretty face and a charming personality, she is also a very dedicated doctor. She spends a great deal of her time in the hospital treating patients. However, weekends are devoted to her family. She is married to Mr. Jonathan Amon and they have been blessed with two beautiful kids. Her hobbies include swimming and cooking. For consultations, you can visit her at Suite 231 of Makati Med. Center. Clinic hours are Mondays to Saturdays. 9AM – 2PM.

Dr. Rebecca Singson is one of MEDICard's most popular doctors among its members. She finished her degree in Medicine at the University of the Philippines and then later on decided to specialize in Obstetrics and Gynecology. She's been with MEDICard for quite a number of years and according to her the said partnership is very fulfilling and enriching to both parties. She is happily married with two children. When she is not very busy, she tries to master her craft in painting. Painting has been her greatest hobby ever since. If you want to avail of her services, you can visit her at Rm. 381 of Makati Medical Center. Clinic Hours are Mondays and Fridays, 9AM – 5PM; Saturday, 9AM-11AM.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. **BE HEARD AND BE READ.** You can write **DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA** at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For membership inquiries, please call 810-2399. Look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. **TEXT MEDICard for your queries:** 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. ***Log on to www.medicardphils.com***

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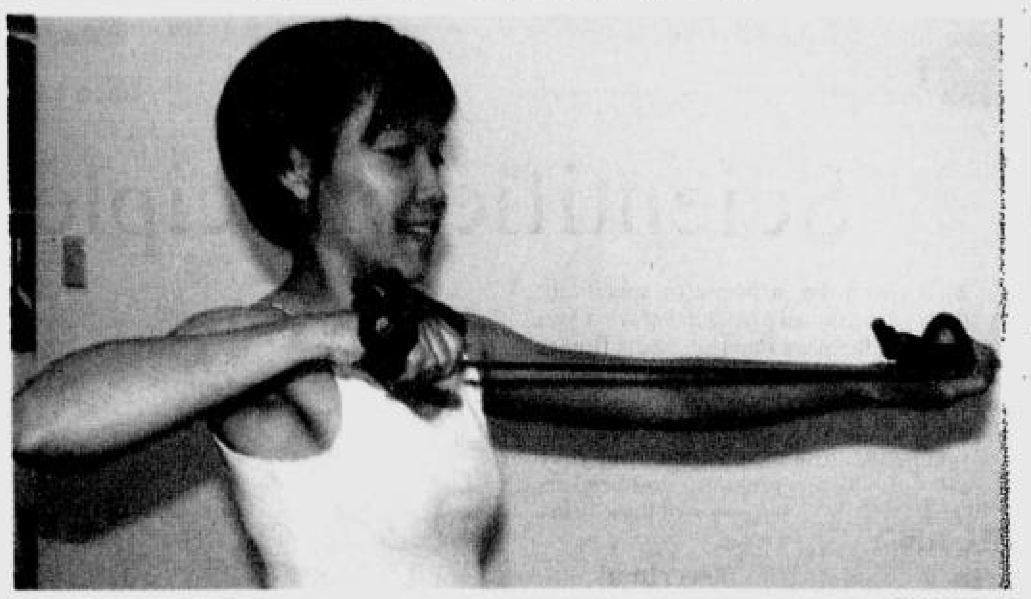
EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



CHITO VECINA

Pullback with rubber band

This strengthens the rear deltoids or muscles at the back of the shoulders as well as the middle trapezius and rhomboids or muscles in between the shoulder blades. People with rounded-shoulders or a stooped posture will benefit from this exercise.

Equipment:

You can purchase specially made exercise rubber bands at sporting good stores or make your own by buying rubber bands used for slingshots or pipe-tying at a hardware store or market. Always check your rubber band for tears before using it.

Exercise technique:

1. Stand with legs shoulder-width apart.
2. Hold both ends of the rubber band with arms at shoulder level in front of you.
3. Keep the left arm steady as the "anchor," tighten up abdominal muscles and pull the rubber band backward with the right arm.
4. Slowly return to the starting position.
5. Do the desired number of repetitions. Repeat on the other arm.

Performance tips:

1. Hold your arms slightly wider than shoulder-width with your elbows slightly bent and your shoulder blades lightly squeezed together.
2. Pull your arm backward until your elbow is slightly past the side of your body. Do this by contracting the muscles at the back of your shoulders and between your shoulder blades.
3. Exhale as you pull your arms toward you and inhale as you return to the starting position.
4. When returning to the starting position, continue to maintain tension in the rubber band and keep your shoulder blades lightly squeezed together.
5. Keep your shoulders facing front. Do not allow your torso to twist as you pull your arm backward.

Repetitions:

One set of eight to 12 repetitions. Do one to three sets if you want to.

Scientific principles to guide you in keeping fit

(From page C1)

and firmer skin so you won't get hurt anymore. The more friction is applied, the more your body responds to protect your skin by making your callus bigger and harder.

The body does the same thing when you lift a weight that you are not used to. If you keep doing it regularly, the body will "wake up" muscle fibers that have not been previously used. After a period of time and if you keep increasing the weight, the body will start making the individual muscle fibers thicker.

When you are training aerobically, the body will overcompensate by increasing the number of mitochondria (a cell structure where aerobic energy is produced) and capillaries (small blood vessels) and by making the heart stronger so it can pump more blood per beat.

Reversibility principle

This is also called the "use it or lose it" principle. It is the opposite of the principle of overcompensation. Calluses disappear when you stop applying friction (with a little help from a pumice stone or chemical remover). Same with exercise, when you stop, your body will revert back to its original fitness level. This will not happen right away but as sure as the sun will rise tomorrow, you will eventually be back to where you started.

The body is very efficient. It will only compensate for what it needs. If you don't lift anything heavier than a coffee cup and don't push anything heavier than a computer mouse, then your body only needs muscles strong enough to do those activities. So all the muscular strength you achieved from past workouts will disappear together with additional benefits like firm shapely muscles. Unfortunately, it is much easier to "lose it" than it is to "use it."

'Everyone is different' principle

Even if you and a friend follow the exact diet and exercise program, your bodies will respond differently. Human beings are similar in the sense that everyone has one heart, one liver, two arms, two legs and all the other obvious similarities, but we each have a unique genetic history that affects the way we respond to exercise or diet. Some people have such responsive muscles that a few weeks of weightlifting is all they need to start seeing definition and firmness. Others need a few months before seeing any type of aesthetic results.

In an experiment done in Quebec University by exercise physiologist Claude Bouchard, 47 young men were put on an exercise program for five months. Some of the men showed 100 percent improvement in their fitness levels compared to when they first started. Some showed no change at all.

Even metabolism can be different from person to person. Obesity researcher Eric Ravussin proved this when he measured the resting metabolic rates (the amount of energy needed at rest for basic body functions) of 500 subjects. He found that some people burned 3,000-plus calories a day while others burned only 1,000-plus.

Some people are genetically predisposed to being good at aerobic-type activity and become champion marathon runners. Others are genetically inclined to succeed at power-type activities and win medals in powerlifting. This is why you cannot compare yourself to anyone else and also why you can't just blindly follow the exercise program of your fitness idol and expect the same results. S/He has different parents and grandparents from you.

* * *

The Association of Fitness Professionals will hold a seminar on June 23 at Bahay ng Alumni, UP Campus, Diliman, QC. Sessions for the general public are "Exercise Guidelines and Home Workout for the Elderly." Sessions for aerobic instructors are "Vertical Limit Step," "Pump," "Hip-Hop" and "Dance Aerobics." Sessions for gym instructors are "Exercise Guidelines for Osteoporosis," "Week-by-Week Marathon Training," "Stretching for Tight People" and "Strength Training for Women." Call Lorna at 842-0567 for more details.

* * *

The Sports Medicine Association of the Phils. will hold its Basic (Module I) and Intermediate (Module II) Course in Sports Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas Medicine Building starting on June 30. E-mail sportsmedphil@yahoo.com or call 521-9123 or 303-1142.

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MECHANICS
1. Every purchase of a Canon Bubble Jet Printer model BJC-3000, 6200, 6500, or 8200 will qualify you to join Canon's "THINK TANKS CELL RUSH" raffle promo.
2. For every unit purchased during the promo period, you will instantly get one (1) Canon Think Tanks Cell Rush raffle coupon. You must fill up the raffle coupon with your complete name, address, telephone number, dealer store where you purchased the unit, invoice no., printer model, and signature.
3. You can drop your entries at drop boxes located at designated Canon dealers in GMA or you may enclose your entries in a white legal size envelope and mail to: "CANON THINK TANKS CELL RUSH"
c/o Canon Marketing Philippines, Inc.
2153 Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City, Philippines (1200)
4. For provincial entries, participants must enclose their raffle coupons in a white legal size envelope and mail to the same address stated above.
5. A total of 4 weekly raffle draws will be held at the Canon Marketing Philippines, Inc. head office located at Marvin Plaza Bldg., Pasong Tamo, Makati City at 5 p.m.

Deadline for Submission of entries	Raffle date	Weekly Draw Prizes
April 29	May 2	25 winners of Siemens M35
May 6	May 9	30 winners of Siemens A36
May 13	May 16	40 winners of Nokia 5110i
June 10	June 13	50 winners of Nokia 3310

6. A participant can only win once during the promo period.
7. All non-winning entries will be qualified for the succeeding weekly draws and for the grand raffle draw.
8. The Grand draw will be held on June 20, 2001 at Canon Marketing Philippines, Inc. head office at 4 p.m.
GRAND DRAW PRIZES:
2 winners of Siemens SL45
2 winners of Ericsson R380
8 winners of Nokia 8250
9. Winners will be notified via registered mail and telephone. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
10. Claim period is within 60-days after receipt of notification letter from Canon. Prizes not claimed within the 60-day period shall be forfeited as per DTI's prior approval.
11. Prizes can be claimed at the Canon Marketing Philippines, Inc. head office or at Canon provincial offices specified in the notification letter.
12. To claim the prize, the winner must present at least one valid ID (driver's license, company ID, passport), original proof of purchase (official receipt or sales invoice), and the warranty card.
13. Employees of Canon Mktg. (Phils.), Inc., Dentsu Young & Rubicam Alcantara, and participating outlets including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
14. Promo period is from April 23 2001 to June 18, 2001 only.

DROP BOX CENTERS
SM MEGA MALL - PC Live, Columbia • MAKATI SQUARE - Columbia, Park Square 1 Ayala Center • ROBINSON'S GALLERIA - Octagon, ABX • SM SOUTHMALL - Discovery, Accent Micro • FESTIVAL MALL - Challenger, Computer Farm • STA. LUCIA - YTR Computer, Abenson • SM BACOOR - Columbia • SM FAIRVIEW - Computer Farm, Electroworld • SM NORTH EDSA - Asiano, NT Computers • VIRRA MALL - Generation, Dynamic • ROBINSON'S PLACE MANILA - Columbia • SM MANILA - Asiano, Complink • SHANGRI-LA - NT Computers, TCA

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1076 Series of 2001
• Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1470 Series of 2001

Canon Marketing Head Office Address: Canon Marketing Philippines, Inc. - Marvin Plaza Bldg., 2153 Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City, Philippines • Tels Nos. 812 6047/812 6076 to 79 • Email address: cmp_sales@canon.com.ph

Pioneer in scalp treatment and hair replacement technology marks 20th year

SVENSON International, the country's pioneer in hair and scalp treatments and hair replacement innovations, celebrated its 20th year in the Philippines on May 18.

Among the latest innovations Svenson offers its clients include the Tricho-DHT Inhibitor, a breakthrough formulation that combats Dihydrotestosterone (DHT), the main culprit in male pattern baldness. The Tricho-DHT Inhibitor has been proven to effectively stop further hair loss and prevent baldness before it can spread too far.

The Laser Hair Cell Accelerator, which was developed in Germany, is a treatment that is being used by Svenson around the world with remarkable results in hair regrowth and recovery. A special soft laser, which is used directly on the scalp, acts like a light vitamin to increase the amount and prolong the life of hair cells. Combined with Svenson's other treatments, this speeds up the process of hair regrowth.

For baldness problems, Svenson's Cosmetic Transdermal Reconstruction (CTR) is the most advanced nonsurgical hair replacement technology ever developed. It is seamless, unnoticeable and totally convincing as real hair, even to a conscious probing touch. With CTR, you can do vigorous activities and no one can detect it. It becomes a natural part of you and looks as real as the hair you were born with.

Depending on the degree of hair loss and personal body chemistry, Svenson also recommends its highly effective Non-Surgical Hair Integration Method. This uses hair that matches exactly with the look and texture of the client's hair. It is an ideal alternative to having real hair again unlike ineffective topical creams, fake-looking wigs and toupees and so-called hair restoring prescription drugs that have adverse side effects.

Call Svenson International hair and scalp clinics in Makati (817-2260/2194), QC (372-6631/6632), Binondo (243-0128, 244-8913), Alabang (842-1389/4181) and Cebu (233-7631/7633).

Seminar on effectiveness of beauty pill set

WEEKLY DOSAGE

PROSOURCE Int'l Inc. will host a gathering of dermatologists to study the effectiveness of Envie, a beauty pill, on June 15, 6-9:30 p.m., at Saisaki Restaurant, 4/L Building B, SM Megamall. Guest speaker Dr. Edward Lieskovan, professor of pharmacology at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, will discuss the essential ingredients of Envie and how they contribute to the nourishment of healthy skin. Testimonials and various studies contributed by users of this beauty pill will be part of the discussion.

Optimal support of the skin requires a wide range of nutritional factors that are not always readily available in the typical diet. The only way to guarantee optimal skin health is to supplement the diet with a scientifically formulated nutritional support formula designed to specifically meet the unique needs of the skin. The process of creating this type of supplementation has been in development for a long time due to the complexity of the physiological processes that take place in the skin. It is only recently that scientists began to understand how to properly support the skin with nutritional supplementation designed to provide long-term support for the normal physiological processes that occur in this complex tissue.

Thus Envie was formulated. It is envisioned that seminar participants will take home an in-depth approach to nutraceuticals vis-à-vis skin care, and the inherent value of natural source of holistic healing. Call Prosource Int'l. at 727-3948/3768.

HEALING COURSE. Kalimasada, an ancient practice that develops the inner energy and stimulates bioelectrical functions of the body. Courses related to Kalimasada are currently held at PIA (PTV 4) in QC and Makati. The sessions aim to give students the ability to heal most common ailments and to have the capacity to project physical energy for remote healing and other applications. Call 721-2578 or e-mail katscradle @edsamail.com.ph.

NEW PRODUCT. The House of Sara Lee, one of the country's leading direct-selling companies, introduces a unique product that keeps your freshly washed face oil-free even after one's daily activities.

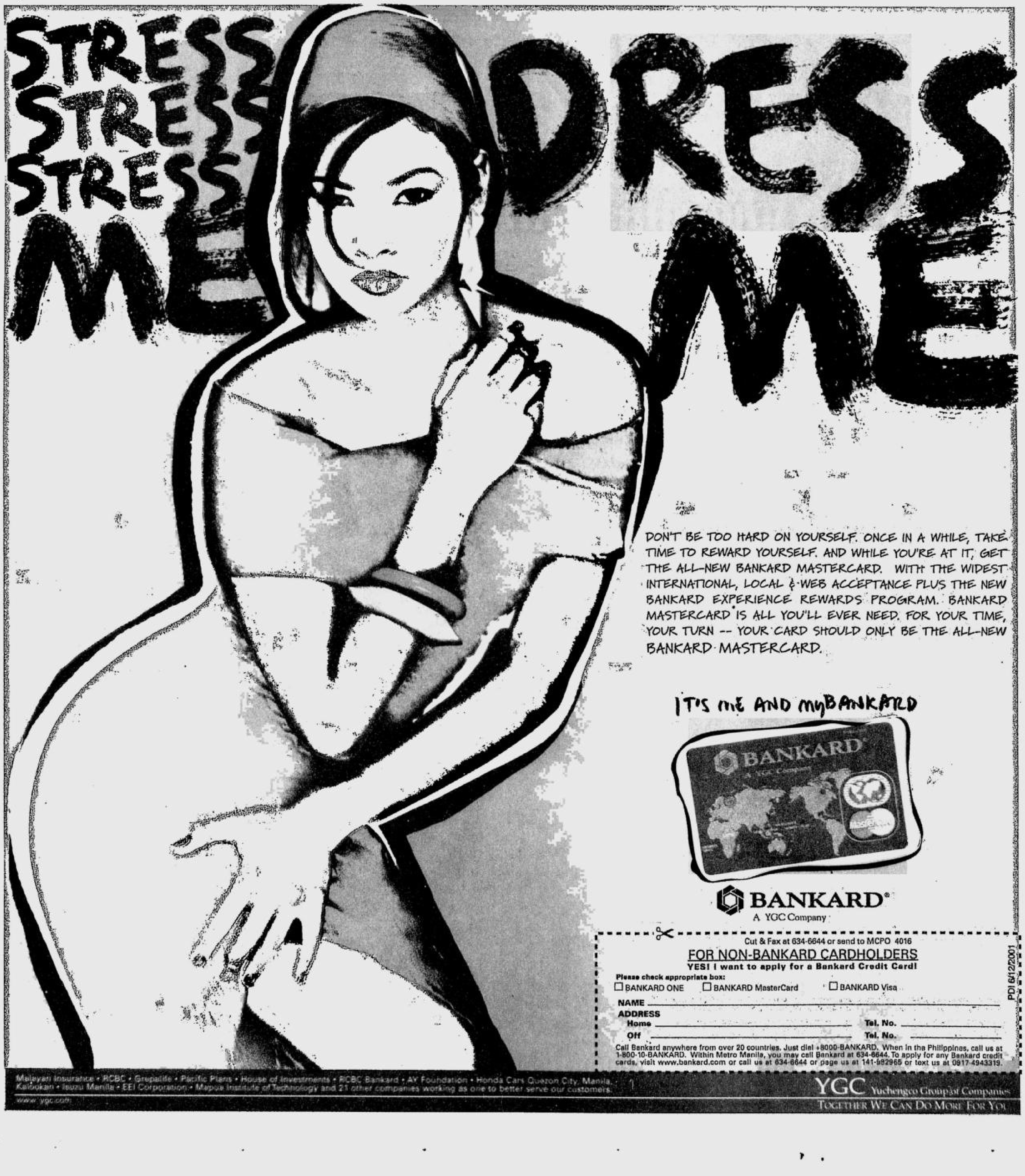
Colour Collection Skin Care Series Oil-Control Bi-Cake Powder Foundation is a dual foundation that creates a shine-free, matte look as the perfect base to highlight your natural beauty. It is also enhanced with Vitamins A and E plus sunscreen to help moisturize, nourish and protect skin from harsh elements. Dermatologically tested, it provides oil-free skin protection whenever and wherever you need it. Colour Collection's Oil-Control Bi-Cake Powder Foundation comes in shades of light medium, medium and dark medium, perfect for the Asian skin tone. And with its handy compact packaging, you can carry it anywhere for touch-ups. Call 810-5402.

FOR CLEAN AND SUN-PROTECTED SKIN

Boss Facial Cleanser SPF 3 helps active males get rid of dirt and excess oil from their skin. It also contains SPF 3 to shield skin from harmful sunrays. With Boss Facial Cleanser, your skin feels refreshingly clean and sun-protected. So whether you're a good guy or a bad boy, make Boss Facial Cleanser SPF 3 part of your daily regimen before going out and conquering—or charming—the world. Available in leading supermarkets and department stores nationwide.

JOHNSON'S PH 5.5 AND DAVID'S SALON TIE-UP

Patrons of David's Salon were treated to free sample packs of Johnson's pH *5.5* Body Wash at selected David's Salon outlets in Metro Manila. Johnson's pH *5.5* brand manager Paolo Sitaca and hair and makeup guru and CEO David Charlton recently formalized the agreement for the dry sampling activity held at David's Salon headquarters in Makati. Also in photo are: Agnes Magallanes (extreme left), marketing services manager for Lowe Lintas & Partners, and Cita Rosales (extreme right), marketing manager of David's Salon.



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An unseen power disrobes him while asleep

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

AN E-MAIL sender named Mike experienced an extraordinary thing twice while asleep. He woke up in the morning with no more briefs and shorts he was wearing before sleeping. Here's his incredible story.

"Sorry if I have to use another name, but the problem I want to consult you about is really different. I always read your column and I decided you may be able to help me find an explanation for what happened to me.

"I live in a townhouse somewhere in Quezon City with my wife. Twice I experienced waking up in the morning without my shorts I was wearing the night before. This is no joke, so please take me seriously.

"I'm sure it's not my wife's doing or me sleepwalking. I would go to sleep wearing my upper and lower garments. But for some unknown reason, I would wake up in the morning without my shorts or briefs anymore. I would find them on the floor or at the foot of my bed.

"Here's the most baffling part. I would find my blanket still draped over my body the way it was the night before. My wife denied having done anything and is as baffled as I am. I know her. She does not normally wake up in the middle of the night.

"I've read stories you have written on ghosts falling in love with or making love with mortals whom they desire. Is a supernatural being or an unseen guest doing this to me? How will I know?"

Assuming you have completely eliminated all possible physical and rational explanation for the two incidents you experienced, then we can point to a supernatural cause. It is possible either a nature spirit (elf or *engkanto*) or an earthbound discarnate being may be responsible for disturbing you while sleeping.

But you are not alone in this. Others have experienced similar incidents. A former bold star (now living in the United States) told me she would wake up in the morning with her blouse unbuttoned and she would also find hematoma (black and blue) marks all over her body, but she felt nothing unusual during sleep.

A former Naia general manager, a retired military officer, related to me a strange incident that happened while he was still a cadet in the PMA. His mother asked him to bring a pair of pajamas, which belonged to his deceased stepfather. Because freshman cadets are not yet allowed to wear pajamas, he gave it to his upper classman friend who wore it. The next morning, his friend woke up completely naked. He didn't remember having removed his pajamas in the evening. He later found the same pair of pajamas neatly folded inside his cabinet. In a panic, he rushed to this cadet and returned the mysterious pajamas. In this case, I believe the cadet's stepfather took back the pajamas because he didn't want it worn by anybody else.

There are certain places in Quezon City that are known to be inhabited by a lot of elementals or nature spirits and earthbound souls. New Manila is one of them, especially the area near Balete Drive. Is there something you can do about your problem? Sometimes, yes. At other times, no. It all depends on the type of spirit doing the interference and the reason for it. To find out, you have to consult a spiritist, a medium, an intuitive or psychic. Let me know if you are interested in consulting one. In the meantime, light a candle or incense, say a prayer for a departed soul before sleeping. Pray for protection, too. Don't forget to snuff out the candle or incense before you sleep, or you may have not only your shorts gone but your whole house, too. Good luck.

* * *

Lee James Heather from London, England saw my website on the Internet and e-mailed the following question about the connection between the pineal gland and psychic functioning. Says Mr. Heather:

"Hello there. I see you have some very interesting things going on at your site. I am writing because I would like to know if you know of any evidence pointing to the pineal gland as the source of psychic functioning. I have read several references to this gland, but I would like to read some evidence. How do we know this gland is involved? Thank you for your help and keep up the good work."

I do not believe there is any objective, physical or scientific evidence linking the pineal gland to any psychic functioning. But there are a number of subjective testimonies of mystics, psychics and Eastern masters pointing to such a link or connection.

The French pilosopher Rene Decartes believed that the pineal gland is somehow connected with emotion and intuition, but offered no objective proof for it. Eastern masters and psychics have traditionally pointed to this gland as the site of telepathy and clairvoyance.

The Eastern concept of the chakras or psychic energy centers, which belong to the subtle or energy body of man, are believed to have a correspondent location in the endocrine or ductless glands, the pineal being one of them. Clairvoyance is popularly referred to as the Third Eye and is symbolically located between the eyebrows. The stimulation of the pineal gland through meditation of the pineal and other mental exercises is supposed to open one's Third Eye or clairvoyant vision.

Some also believe that the pineal gland may be the hidden gateway through which the astral body passes during astral projection, or when having an out-of-body experience. Oliver Fox, a British scientist and an experienced astral traveler, observed that he felt a distinct click inside the middle of his head (where the pineal gland is located) upon returning from the astral world.

Beyond these, there are no scientific proofs of the connection between the pineal gland and psychic functioning. Nevertheless, I believe such a connection does exist.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit my website at www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco for more details. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Dealing with neck pains and backaches

NECK and lower back pains strike 80 percent of adults sometime during their working years. Men and women experience pain at similar rates. A survey even reveals that neck and back pain is second to the common cold as a cause of lost workdays. Too many people wake up in pain.

What causes the pain? Pain is most often caused by improper bending, twisting or lifting and worsened by improper sleeping habits such as using the wrong bed and bad or worn-out pillows.

When upright, your spine can support your body without actually using the neck or back muscles. You pay a price for this luxury. The supporting muscles remain weak from inactivity. They don't develop enough to provide support when you need it, such as when your spine is fighting a bad bed or pillow to maintain alignment. Select Comfort, the maker of quality non-wovens (paddings, stuffings, pillows, beddings, etc.) offers the following tips:

- Unlock and bend the knees when lifting or leaning forward. Keep objects close to your body and directly in front of you.
- Avoid excessive reaching in front of you or overhead. Use a step tool.
- Stop smoking, especially if you have smoker's cough. Coughing puts pressure on the spinal discs.
- Take a standing or walking break every 30 minutes when sitting for long periods and shift position often when standing for long periods.
- Rotate your neck slowly and stretch your limbs every now and then.
- Keep your chair as close as possible to desks and tables.
- Eat right and exercise.
- Medical experts recommend only two sleeping positions to give your body the proper rest it needs and to ensure the health of your cervical spine—sleeping on your side with the spine straight, or on your back, maintaining the primary curvature of the cervical spine.
- Use pillows that support the head and neck that keep them in alignment with the spine. Select Comfort pillows are ergonomically friendly that guarantee sound sleep and pain-free waking hour.
- Use mattresses that let low back muscles relax.

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HOW TO JOIN:

1. This is an instant win promotion! You may win by finding a round plastic chip inside a 900ml, Gallon or Half-Gallon of Nestle Ice Cream Supreme, Classic or 1.5L Flavors of the Summer Ice Cream. The chip shall indicate the prize won.

2. When claiming a major prize, follow the instructions written at the back panel of the winning plastic chip. Keep the winning chip. You need to present this to the Nestle Magnolia and DOH-BFAD representatives.

3. Only Genuine and Original chips shall be honored for redemption of prizes. Tampered, broken, deformed or mutilated chips shall disqualify you or any other winner from claiming the indicated prize. Only Nestle Magnolia executives, together with DOH-BFAD representatives will verify the genuineness of the chip.

4. All prizes are tax paid. No fees are required to claim prizes.

5. Promo period is from May 5, 2001 to August 31, 2001.

6. Prizes not claimed after sixty (60) days from the last day of the promotional period (August 31, 2001) will be forfeited. Any winning chip claimed after October 31, 2001 will not be valid.

7. Employees of Nestlé Philippines, Inc., and its Agencies, Vassar Industries, and DOH-BFAD as well as their relatives up to the 2nd civil degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promotion.

8. All major prizes are convertible to cash except for the 15 Nokia Cellphones and 10 Playstation 2

9. All travel prizes will cover only economy airfare expenses via airline to be chosen by Nestle. US VISA is not guaranteed for winners of US trip.

FIND THE CHIP & WIN MILLIONS WORTH OF PRIZES INSTANTLY!
Look in any 900ml, 1.5L, Half Gallon or One Gallon Nestlé Ice Cream

Per DOH BFAD Permit No. 0273 Series of 2001

Golf tournament to benefit New Beginnings' programs

HELPING others beat chemical dependency is no mean feat. But when well-meaning individuals who have gone through similar experiences pool their resources to create a caring community whereby substance abuse patients learn to coexist, expect some results.

It was with a firm resolve to help people grappling with the "illness" of chemical dependency that New Beginnings Foundation took shape in the minds of Jaime del Rosario and Iñigo Zobel 11 years ago. Soon enough, friends like Josine Elizalde, Gina Godinez, Dr. Edgar Laurena, and the Ayuyao family consisting of Dindo, Dondi and their mom Maria joined in the effort to form the "social model" of a treatment center designed to aid in the recovery, growth and chemical independence of the whole person with higher self-esteem.

Today, New Beginnings offers a full-range of services, which help not just individuals afflicted with substance abuse or dependency but also their families. "We believe chemical dependency is a disease, not a moral issue. It has symptoms that are universally consistent," says Dindo Ayuyao, a certified chemical dependency counselor. He adds that New Beginnings, now situated in a spacious and conducive dwelling place manned by its founders and five counselors as well as volunteer assistants in the southern part of Metro Manila, unconditionally accepts individuals who have shown readiness to help themselves and respond to a sense of spirituality which the center prescribes to be an essential factor to help overcome the chemical dependency and interrelated problems.

The foundation accepts individual patients who may still need medical detoxification. New Beginnings is the first treatment center in the Philippines to have a freestanding medical detoxification unit headed by a medical doctor trained in the field of addictions medicine. It also accepts those who have shown willingness to accept help, realizing that they are missing something in life and will do well to obtain a healthy self-concept and, eventually, a better regard for others, too.

Focusing as it does on a tried-and-tested approach to deal with chemical dependency, New Beginnings follows the 12 steps used by Alcoholics (AA) to arrest chemical dependence. Simply stated, the treatment center combines the latest counseling and medical approaches, and focuses on another key element—family therapy.

After the initial 45-day treatment, patients can proceed to a stage akin to a "halfway house," whereby a fearless moral inventory of themselves are undertaken, followed by a "three-quarter house" or the stage when individuals can now devote half the time to therapy and the other half to normal things like going back to school or getting a job. New Beginnings is also firm on its rules of "no sex, no drugs, no violence" in its vicinity, thereby instilling self-discipline.

Indeed, as its name implies, New Beginnings spells hope and empowerment for chemically dependent patients and their kin. The good intentions to sustain and offer its unique, integrated program to a greater number of people, including those with limited financial means, has garnered the cooperation of Deco Centrum and the sponsorship of other companies to throw in support for fund-raising activities like the Invitational Golf Tournament on June 19 at the Ayala Alabang Country Club.

The first fund-raiser in 11 years is meant to help New Beginnings carry out its complete program consisting of medical evaluation, individual and family group therapy and family program, in-patient care, extended care facility, after-care services and active participation in the 12-steps programs patterned after AA and Narcotics Anonymous.

In store for winners of the New Beginnings golf tournament are Baccarat crystal trophies from France.

STANDING, from left, Neutrogena skin care services manager Lia Bernardo, Dr. Socceur Oblepias, Thelma San Juan, Marivic Rufino Buenaventura; seated, Neutrogena international PR manager Yvette Llarena, Neutrogena brand manager Tiffany Romasanta and Chiqui Brosas-Hahn

In search of young women achievers

NEUTROGENA has launched a campaign billed as Neu Woman, in honor of young women achievers throughout Southeast Asia.

The Neu Woman, according to Neutrogena, transcends a pretty face; she is one with confidence, style and grace. She is intelligent and makes her own choices. She has chosen a career in which she excels, and she leads a balanced life.

The Neu Woman recognition award is being launched in the Philippines this month and in Thailand and Malaysia in October. In each country, a special board of women has been set up, comprised of women who are themselves achievers and successful in their fields. The board will nominate the women from which lot three to five Neu Women will be chosen for each country.

In the Philippines, the Neu Woman board members are: Thelma San Juan (chair), editor in chief of Metro Magazine and general manager of ABS-CBN Publishing; Marivic Rufino Buenaventura, visual artist and concert producer; Dr. Socceur Oblepias, a diplomate of the Philippine Board of Dermatology who is an authority on photodamage and antiaging; Chiqui Brosas-Hahn, a former Bb. Pilipinas-Universe who is now considered an authority on natural childbearing methods in the Philippines; and Joyce Oreña-Stalder, a top fashion model who lives in Hong Kong and writes a fashion column.

The Neutrogena board met on two occasions recently to nominate and choose five women who will be the Philippines' Neu Women for 2001. The Neu Women Awards ceremony will take place on June 21.

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PDI 6/12/2001

Malayan Insurance • RCBC • Grepalife • Pacific Plans • House of Investments • RCBC Bankard • AY Foundation • Honda Cars Quezon City, Manila. [illegible] • Isuzu Manila • EEI Corporation • Mapua Institute of Technology and 21 other companies working as one to better serve our customers.
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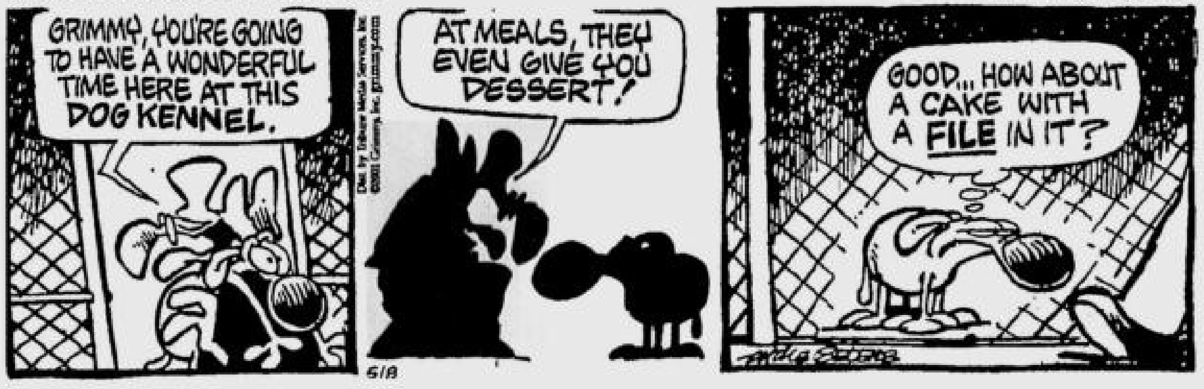
TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE FOR YOU

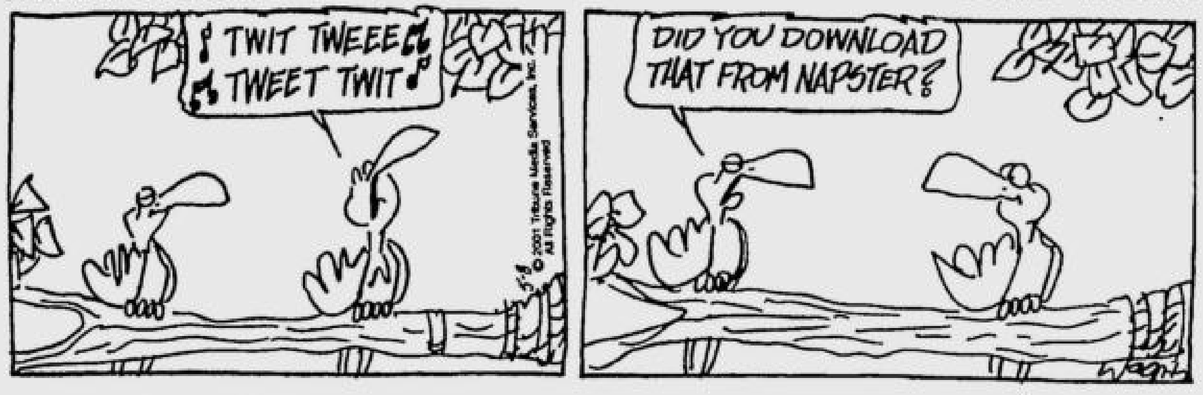
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMMY, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME HERE AT THIS DOG KENNEL.
AT MEALS, THEY EVEN GIVE YOU DESSERT!
GOOD... HOW ABOUT A CAKE WITH A FILE IN IT?
5/8

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER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DID YOU DOWNLOAD THAT FROM NAPSTER?
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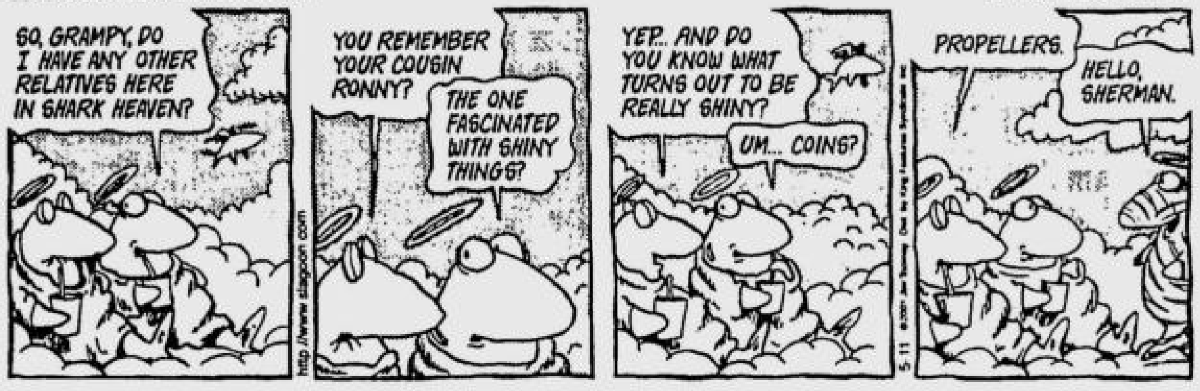
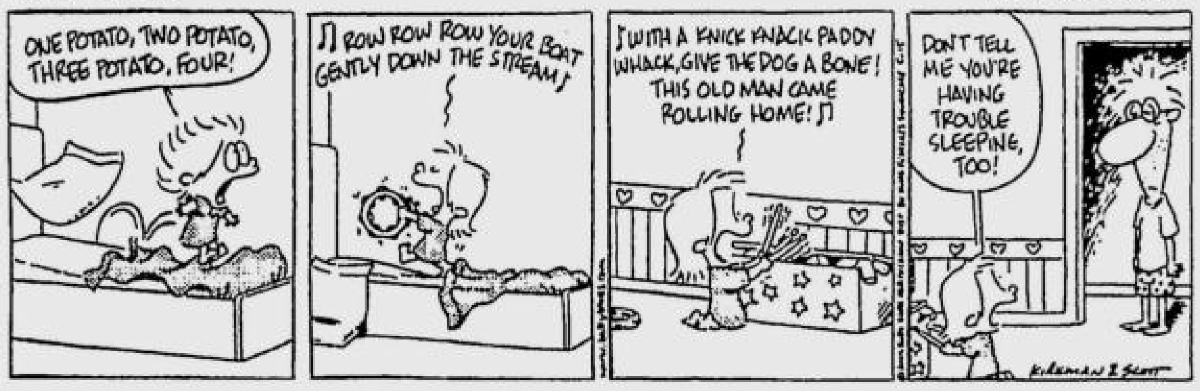
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SO, GRAMPY, DO I HAVE ANY OTHER RELATIVES HERE IN SHARK HEAVEN?
YOU REMEMBER YOUR COUSIN RONNY?
THE ONE FASCINATED WITH SHINY THINGS?
YEP... AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT TURNS OUT TO BE REALLY SHINY?
UM... COINS?
PROPELLERS.
HELLO, SHERMAN.
http://www.slagoon.com
5-11

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ONE POTATO, TWO POTATO, THREE POTATO, FOUR!
ROW ROW ROW YOUR BOAT GENTLY DOWN THE STREAM
WITH A KNICK KNACK PADDY WHACK, GIVE THE DOG A BONE! THIS OLD MAN CAME ROLLING HOME!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE SLEEPING, TOO!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: George Bush Sr., Jim Nabors, Anne Frank, Tim Allen, Timothy Busfield, Ally Sheedy, Marv Albert

Happy Birthday: You'll be moving a mile a minute this year, much to your delight. You're always happier wheeling-and-dealing, and the more action, the better. You are well-equipped to participate in all sorts of interesting new projects and reach your goal. You will contribute revolutionary concepts to your field. Your numbers: 5, 12, 23, 28, 41, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Expect delays if you have to deal with government agencies or large corporations. They will give you the runaround and waste your time. It's a good idea to leave these matters alone for now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You need to dig into a project that you believe in. Stop working on meaningless, unsatisfying jobs. Make the necessary changes to feel better about yourself and what you do.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will receive recognition for your accomplishments, which will lead to a new position and more responsibility. Make sure you can afford to spend that much time away from loved ones.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Talk about your feelings. Ask your lover exactly what his or her intentions are. If you aren't moving in the same direction, then consider your next step. Make a change or move on.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may become angry or upset if you get involved in joint money ventures. Put your money into a solid investment, such as real estate.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Overreacting to your lover's actions will lead to a major blowout. Think twice before taking action. You may find yourself all alone and need to stay busy with hobbies you enjoy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't exaggerate at work or you'll be embarrassed by someone who knows the real circumstances. It's best to keep a low profile and do your job.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You should put more time and energy into creative pursuits. You'll get a positive response from people who view your work. With discipline, you can take your talent to the limit.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Limitations are likely if you haven't been handling domestic situations well. Your family may respond poorly to your request for help with a project.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make amends if you've been having problems with friends or relatives. Talks will prove to be beneficial for all parties involved.

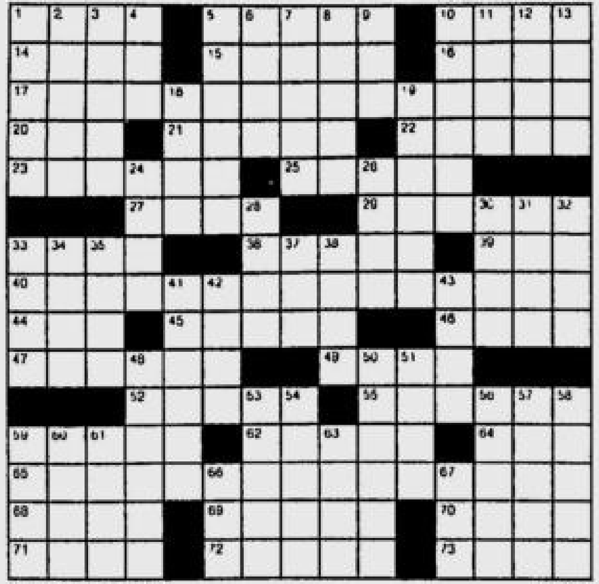
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A lack of confidence will keep you from getting ahead. It's time to look in the mirror and decide exactly what you have to do to raise your self-esteem.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't be afraid to tell someone you live with just how you feel about him or her. It's better to lay your cards on the table than to continue to put up with what you're experiencing.

Birthday Baby: You will focus on learning and discovering throughout life. You're sensitive and loving, but also know how to get others to give in to your needs.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

4/26/01

ACROSS

1 Tolerate
5 Also known as
10 Wet forecast
14 Wheel bar
15 Slight push
16 Sgt. Snorkel's dog
17 Prepared to walk through tulips?
20 Period of many years
21 Viewpoint
22 Pyramid occupant
23 Squalid
25 Begin the fainting process
27 Brief office note
29 Thus far
33 Likewise
36 Boat lift
39 Hair goo
40 Showed spirit
44 401K kin
45 Gridiron demarcations
46 Run in neutral
47 Cleared
49 Skier's ride
52 River through Soissons
55 Models of perfection
59 Decorate
62 Perceptive
64 By way of
65 Dilly-dallied
68 Contribution to the pot
69 Pavarotti or Caruso
70 Impulse
71 More than half
72 Bad-tempered
73 Cereal grasses

DOWN

1 Military installations
2 Laud
3 Unchallenged
4 Classic car model
5 False name
6 Wind organ
7 Gods' images
8 Nixon's V.P.
9 Date
10 Corpulent
11 Mote
12 Part of a list
13 Overly inquisitive
18 Stupor
19 Make even
24 Hog-wild
26 Elevator pioneer
28 Scent
30 Got grayer
31 Narrate
32 If not, then
33 Related by blood (to)
34 Sicilian currency
35 Go away!
37 Moreover
38 Part of a three-piece suit
41 Observing
42 Pops
43 Emerald Isle
48 Objective
50 Guard dogs and mosquitoes
51 Fruit coolers
53 2000 candidate Ralph
54 Bargain model: pref.
56 Brooks or Brundage
57 Feudal lord
58 Fills excessively
59 Sandler or Arkin
60 Sean Connery film
61 Feedbag fill
63 __ cuantos (a few)
66 & so forth
67 Animal coat

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

E	D	E	M	A	■	P	O	T	■	S	P	I	L	T
V	A	L	I	D	■	I	K	E	■	E	R	N	I	E
E	N	E	R	O	■	N	I	N	■	G	A	T	E	S
L	E	V	E	R	A	G	E	D	B	U	Y	O	U	T
■	■	■	■	A	L	S	■	■	L	E	E	■	■	■
P	A	L	A	T	E	■	L	A	O	■	R	A	G	S
A	T	A	R	I	■	C	A	R	O	M	■	G	H	I
C	O	R	P	O	R	A	T	E	M	E	R	G	E	R
E	N	G	■	N	A	F	T	A	■	A	L	I	N	E
S	E	E	P	■	V	E	E	■	I	N	S	E	T	S
■	■	■	A	B	E	■	■	O	L	D	■	■	■	■
H	O	S	T	I	L	E	T	A	K	E	O	V	E	R
A	S	P	E	N	■	R	E	S	■	R	I	A	T	A
S	L	U	N	G	■	I	R	E	■	E	L	I	T	E
H	O	R	S	E	■	E	N	S	■	D	Y	N	E	S

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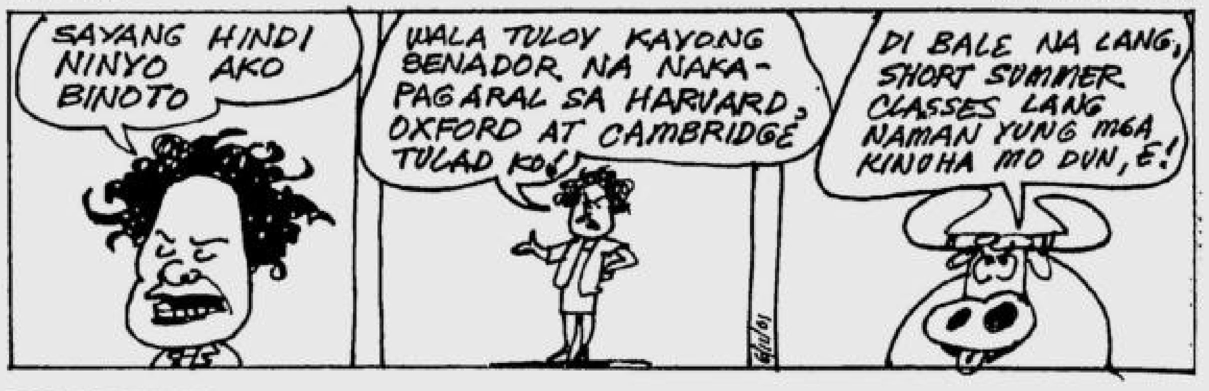
4/26/01

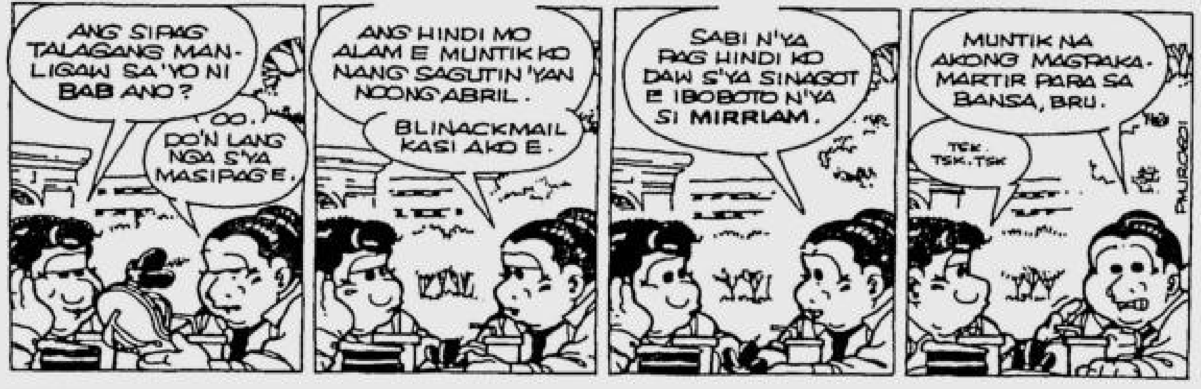
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SAYANG HINDI NINYO AKO BINOTO
WALA TULOY KAYONG SENADOR NA NAKAPAG ARAL SA HARVARD, OXFORD AT CAMBRIDGE TULAD KO!
DI BALE NA LANG, SHORT SUMMER CLASSES LANG NAMAN YUNG MGA KINUHA MO DUN, E!
6/1/01

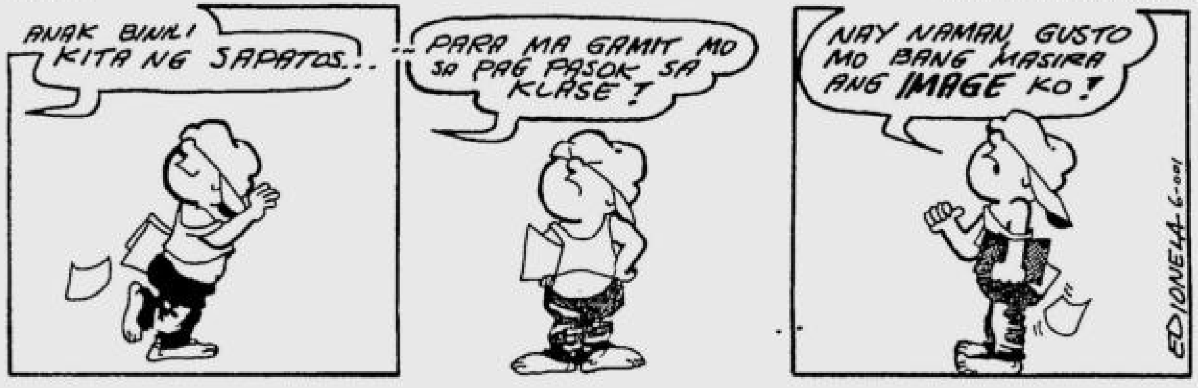
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG SIPAG TALAGANG MANLIGAW SA'YO NI BAB ANO?
OO. DO'N LANG NGA S'YA MASIPAG E.
ANG HINDI MO ALAM E MUNTIK KO NANG SAGUTIN 'YAN NOONG ABRIL.
BLINACKMAIL KASI AKO E.
SABI N'YA PAG HINDI KO DAW S'YA SINAGOT E IBOBOTO N'YA SI MIRRIAM.
MUNTIK NA AKONG MAGPAKAMARTIR PARA SA BANSA, BRU.
TSK. TSK. TSK
PMJR2001

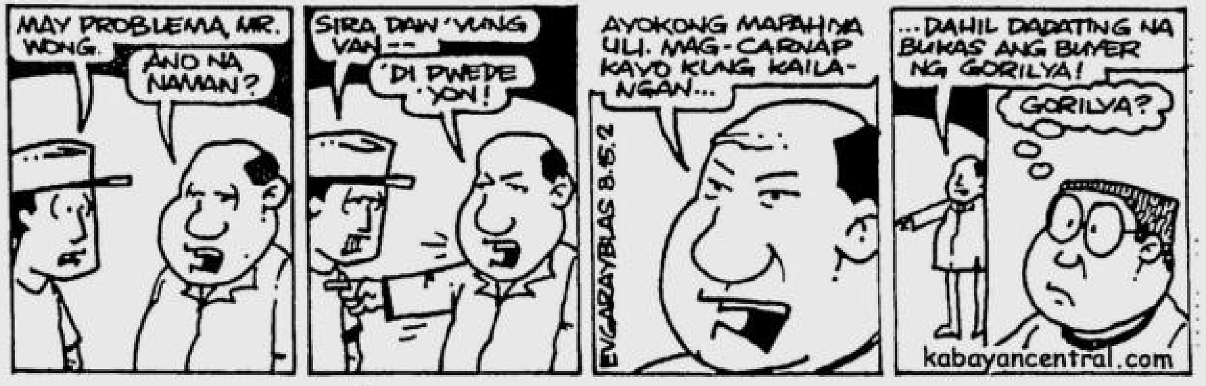
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANAK BINILI KITA NG SAPATOS...
...PARA MA GAMIT MO SA PAG PASOK SA KLASE?
NAY NAMAN, GUSTO MO BANG MASIRA ANG IMAGE KO?
EDIONELA 6-001

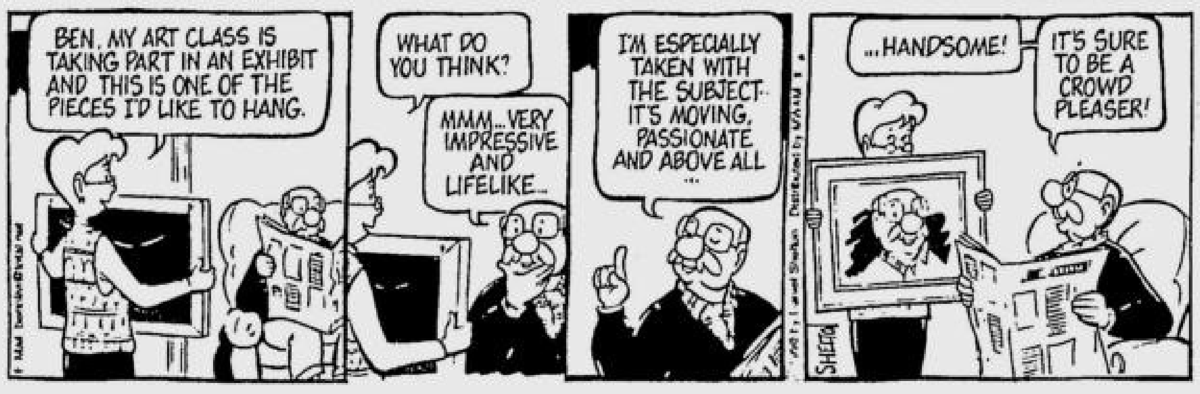
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


MAY PROBLEMA, MR. WONG.
ANO NA NAMAN?
SIRA DAW 'YUNG VAN--
'DI PWEDE 'YON!
AYOKONG MAPAHIYA ULI. MAG-CARNAP KAYO KUNG KAILANGAN...
...DAHIL DADATING NA BUKAS ANG BUYER NG GORILYA!
GORILYA?
EVGARAYBLAS 8.5.2
kabayancentral.com

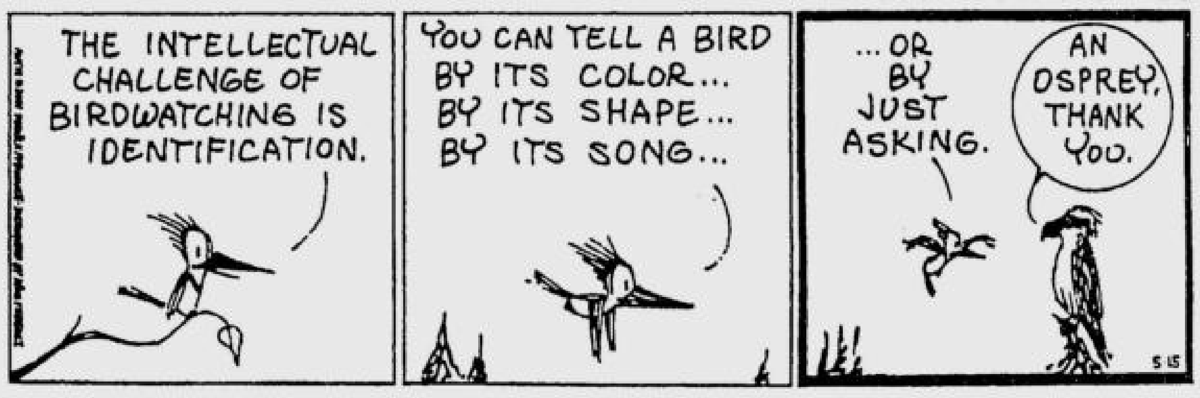
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN, MY ART CLASS IS TAKING PART IN AN EXHIBIT AND THIS IS ONE OF THE PIECES I'D LIKE TO HANG.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
MMM... VERY IMPRESSIVE AND LIFELIKE...
I'M ESPECIALLY TAKEN WITH THE SUBJECT. IT'S MOVING, PASSIONATE AND ABOVE ALL ...
...HANDSOME!
IT'S SURE TO BE A CROWD PLEASER!
SHELTON

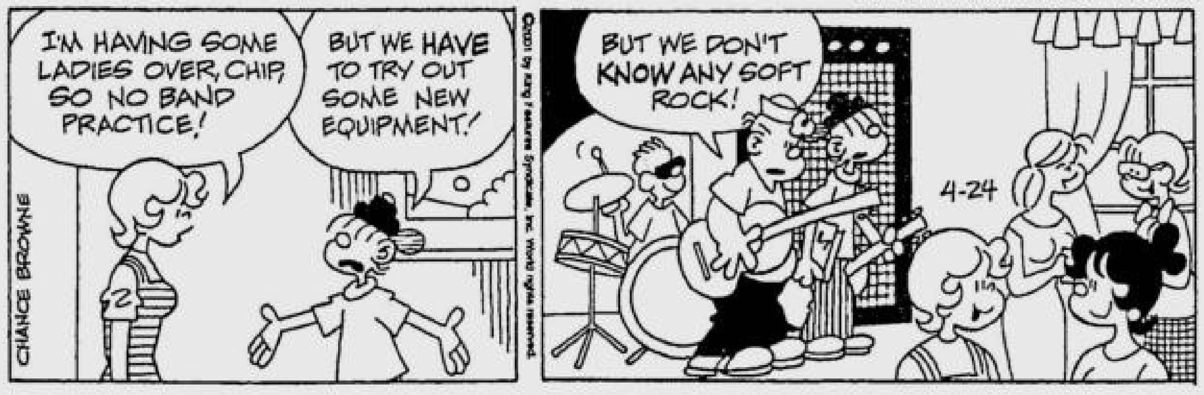
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THE INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGE OF BIRDWATCHING IS IDENTIFICATION.
YOU CAN TELL A BIRD BY ITS COLOR... BY ITS SHAPE... BY ITS SONG...
...OR BY JUST ASKING.
AN OSPREY, THANK YOU.
5-15

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I'M HAVING SOME LADIES OVER, CHIP, SO NO BAND PRACTICE!
BUT WE HAVE TO TRY OUT SOME NEW EQUIPMENT!
BUT WE DON'T KNOW ANY SOFT ROCK!
4-24
CHANCE BROWNE
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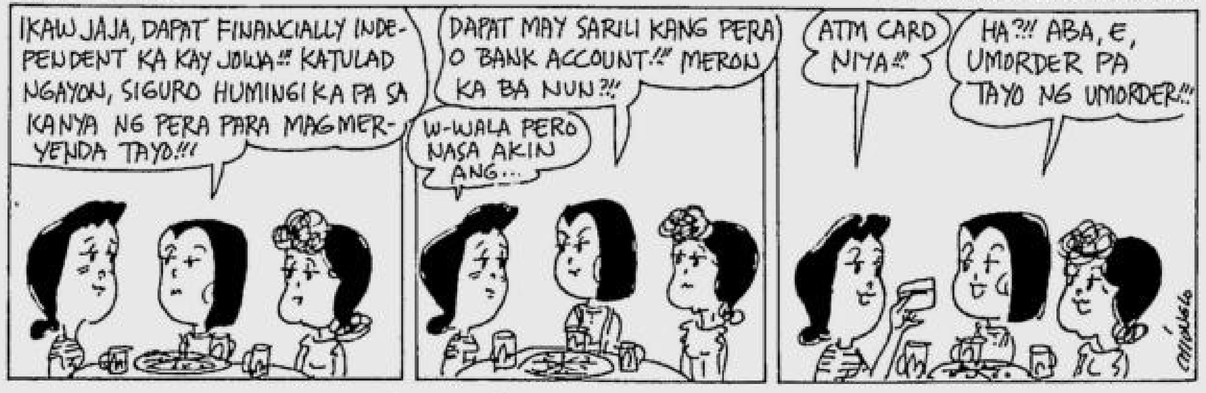
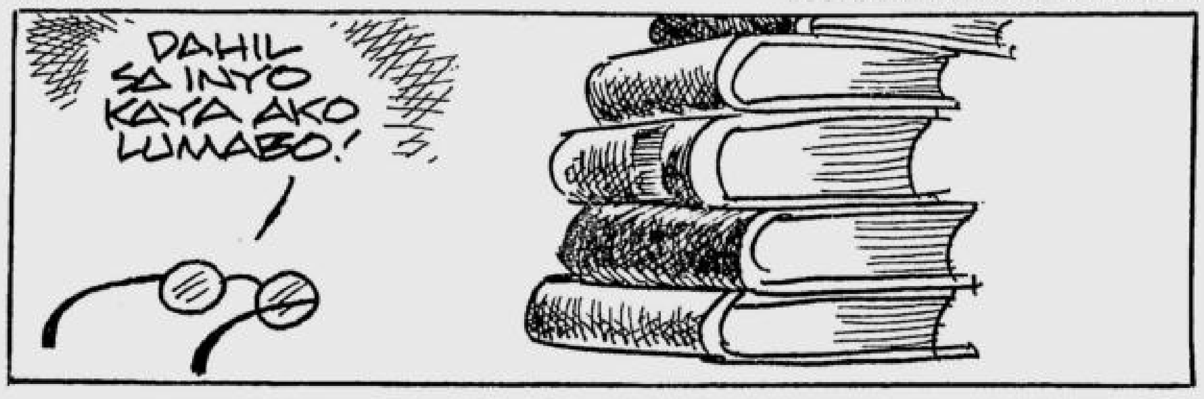
LOVEKNOTS

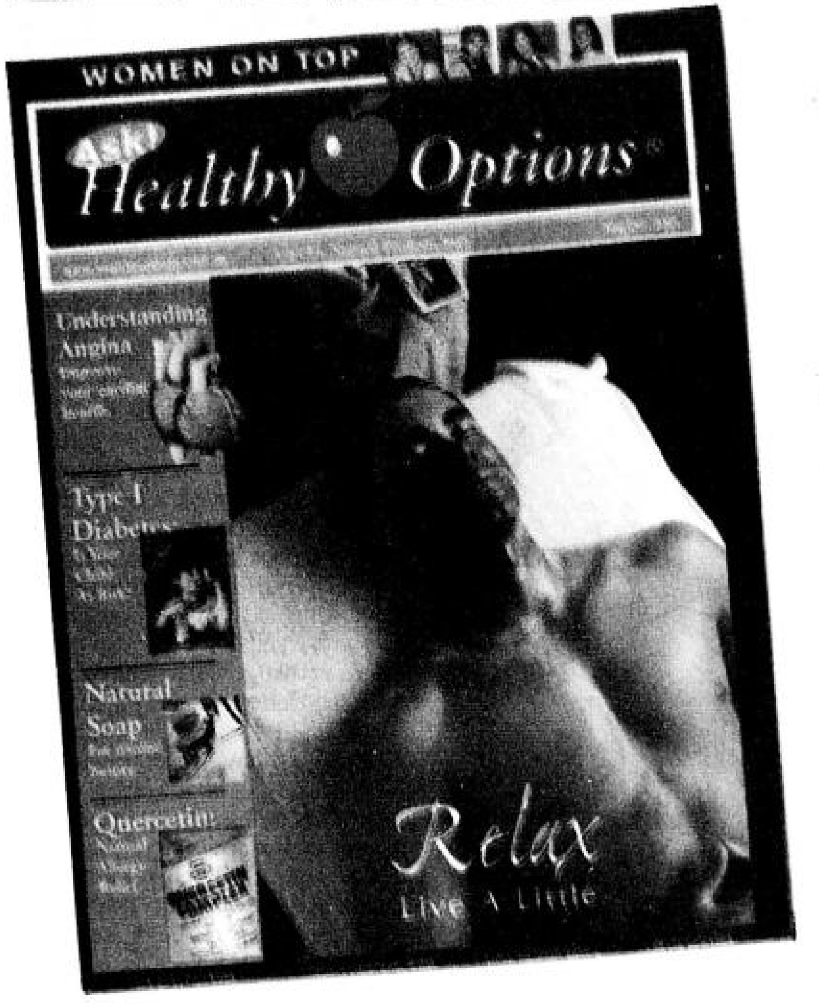
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


IKAW JAJA, DAPAT FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT KA KAY JOWA!! KATULAD NGAYON, SIGURO HUMINGI KA PA SA KANYA NG PERA PARA MAGMERYENDA TAYO!!!
DAPAT MAY SARILI KANG PERA O BANK ACCOUNT!!! MERON KA BA NUN?!!
W-WALA PERO NASA AKIN ANG...
ATM CARD NIYA!!
HA?!! ABA, E, UMORDER PA TAYO NG UMORDER!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


DAHIL SA INYO KAYA AKO LUMABO!



HEALTH NEWS

The Healthy Options News Digest for May/June 2001 features celebrities and their stress-busters, fitness goals and food preferences; natural remedies for allergy sufferers; and regular sections on natural beauty, kids' health, vital finds, health quiz and science news. The digest is given free to customers of Healthy Options, Asia's No. 1 natural products store, at any of its branches in major shopping malls.

What you wear matters when you're breastfeeding

BREASTFEEDING is the ultimate maternal experience. It not only provides the infant with incalculable health benefits, it's also a wonderful opportunity for mommy and baby to bond and spend quiet moments together. The process itself, however, could be physically painful and tiring for the young mommy. Worst, it underscores a problem for women the world over: what to wear.

Mommy Matters, the brainchild of entrepreneur-cousins Janice Villanueva and Candice Cu, provides moms with special products for the different stages of motherhood—from pregnancy and breastfeeding to child-rearing.

"We intend to make motherhood easier and more convenient for moms. We believe that a happy mother has happy children. Moms who are happy, comfortable and content with themselves and their lives would naturally care better for their children and provide them with a more stable environment," Villanueva explains.

She speaks from experience. When she had her first son, Coby, she found breastfeeding to be a fulfilling yet challenging experience. "When I'd take my kids out and need to nurse in public, I'd have to hide away in a fitting room or in the mall's customer lounge." So, for its first salvo, Mommy Matters has come up with a line specially designed for breastfeeding.

Cu says, "We hope that our comfortable apparel will make the experience as easy and as natural as possible."

The Mommy Matters line of nursing wear is designed with hidden slits, flaps and overlays to provide easy access to the mom's nursing bra so she can nurse discreetly in a public place or in a private room.

Villanueva adds, "Why the name Mommy Matters? Two reasons—one, because this is a company focused on matters important to moms and, two, because we believe the needs of mommies matter, too."

The Mommy Matters line is available at Rustan's Makati, Rustan's Tower Shangri-La and Rustan's Alabang Town Center.

Visit www. mommymatters. ph. or e-mail mommymatters@ bigfoot.com.

Handy pocket pals for kids

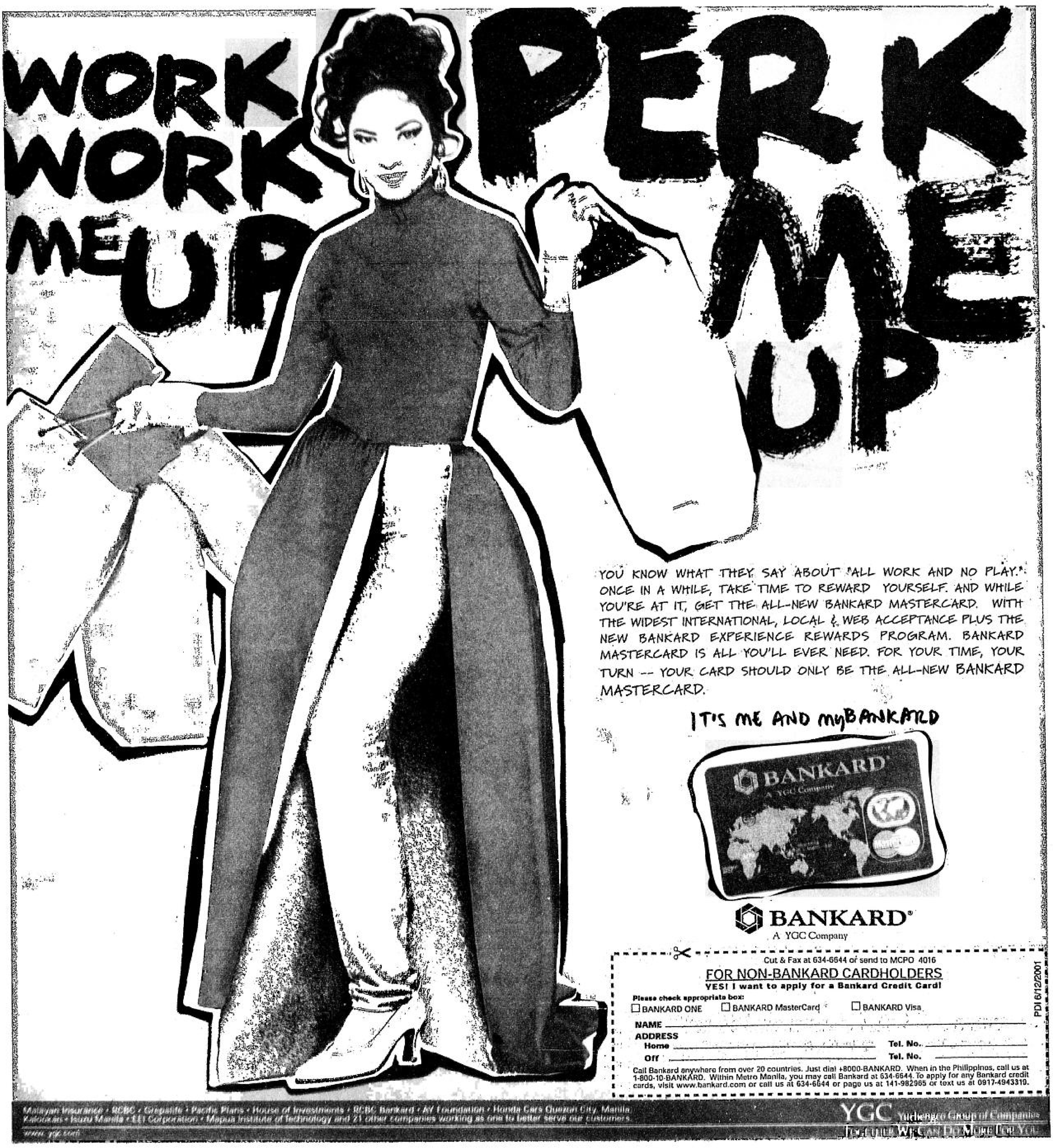
EQUIP your children with handy pocket pals like mosquito repellant lotion and hand sanitizing gel.

Citronelle is a clear lotion made from natural plant extracts which repels insects like the deadly H-Fever mosquito. Since this pest is known to bite in the daytime, it is ideal to apply Citronelle on your kids before going to school. Teach them to reapply it on their arms and legs by midday and by afternoon.

Teach your children to sanitize their hands before eating with Vitagel, a handy alcogel that kills bacteria. Children can carry Vitagel in their pockets or school bags. Get them into the habit of squeezing a pea-sized portion onto their palm, rubbing their hands with it, letting it dry or dabbing their hands with tissue. This simple habit will prevent hepatitis, typhoid, cholera, diphtheria and other serious illnesses.

Vitagel also contains vitamins A, C and E in colorful microspheres. This serves to nourish and moisturize hands while working as an antibacterial hand gel.

Citronelle and Vitagel are distributed by CM Star through its 90 service centers located nationwide, with head offices at 86 Ninth Ave., Cubao, QC. Call 911-8271 or 912-5656.



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Paradox of birth and death among women

By Constantino C. Tejero

A HEALTH risk for a woman that is often taken for granted is childbirth. The Commission on Population (Popcom) says this is "a fact that many people recognize but do not take seriously."

The risk is confounded by the unequal relations between men and women. It is the man, not the woman, who usually decides whether she should bear a child or not. More often, women "cannot have the last word on when to get pregnant and how many children to have."

A woman loses 500 cubic centiliters of blood, vitamins and other nutrients during childbirth. It would take two years for her to recover her strength and stamina.

According to the 1998 National Demographic and Health Survey, the number of maternal deaths is 172 per 100,000 live births. More women die of childbirth-related complications than of typhoid, H-fever, infections, measles and hepatitis.

The survey says maternal deaths represent 14 percent of all deaths among women aged 15-49. And women face a 1:100 chance of dying from maternal causes in their lifetime.

ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

More women die of childbirth complications than typhoid, H-fever and infections. A two-year spacing should be practiced by couples to reduce risks for both mother and child

Thus, Popcom executive director Tomas Osias stresses that a two-year birth spacing should be strictly practiced by couples to reduce the risks for both mother and child.

But then, studies have shown that women often find it difficult to delay or to stop having children altogether because of opposition from men. Thus the many unwanted pregnancies. Osias says the situation is made worse by long-held assumptions and beliefs about women's roles that relegate them only to childbearing.

Quality of life

Just as serious is the chain of ill health and poor survival chances the mother passes on to her child. Data show that 50 percent of pregnant women have anemia and 45 percent are undernourished. Some 65 percent of breastfeeding mothers are undernourished. Problems related to the mother's poor health and nutrition are, of course, inherited by the child. Thus, 18 percent of newborns have low birth weight.

In a related development, a report from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) says that one out of 10 persons today is over the age of 60 and likely to be a woman. In at least 33 countries, life expectancy for women now exceeds 80 years.

The report, "The State of World Population," explains: "The difference between male and female life expectancy is a result of a combination of biological differences, such as lower susceptibility to heart disease before menopause, and cultural influences, such as greater male exposure to occupational hazards."

These are factors that have long been known. The major challenge is adding "quality of life to the extended years."

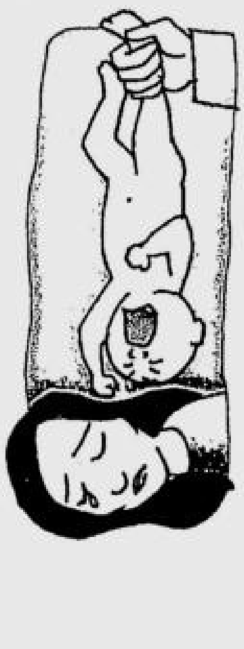
As the UN report says, while women can look forward to a longer life than men, they are expected to continue suffering from gender discrimination even in their old age.

Burden on women

Other findings of the report:

- Despite their larger numbers, women receive less old-age support from public programs than men because public pension systems have been designed on the assumption that the latter would be the primary economic providers.
- Widowhood is more prevalent among women because they live longer and usually marry men older than themselves. They are less likely to remarry (unlike men) and often live alone.
- Older women often receive less support from their families because of an underlying assumption that they do not deserve support.
- Women suffer from high rates of disability at older ages because of their lack of healthcare, education and nutrition earlier in life.
- Older women are more likely to be poor than older men as a result of the accumulated impact of lower lifetime earnings, lower pensions, lower social status and weaker access to property and inheritance.
- The burden of care-giving for the elderly falls more heavily on women than men.

These findings show that gender discrimination continues to make life tough for women even until their supposedly golden years. The goal should not be just to improve longevity but also to raise the quality of life for both man and woman.



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On healing grounds

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Chito Vecina

THE ENERGY of touch serves as the foundation for healing practices worldwide. Our physical and emotional wellness is nurtured by regular doses of touch because they bring comfort and relieve tension. Massage and manipulation can invigorate blood flow and tissue fluid, warm the tissues, increase flexibility and soothe pain. The power of touch also reaches the deep aspects of our being. Touch can stimulate chemical substances in the nervous system called endorphins, which check pain and promote positive feelings.

> Spa treatments can help us tune into our bodies and create a sense of balance

This explains the popularity of day spas and the introduction of Eastern practices. These give clients an hour to recharge themselves and keep stress at bay.

"Spas, rather than hospitals, are the healing grounds for the next millennium. If people can reduce stress, tune into their bodies to relieve the small problems, then the larger medical problems won't happen. Many of our health problems start from some small imbalance, some small signals which we ignore in our busy, rushing, hectic lifestyles. Taking the time for spa treatments and therapies create that bit of space for us to tune into our bodies and create a greater sense of balance," says Marielle Holman Barnes, director of Healing Choices Spa Consultants.

Flow of energy

Holman Barnes was in Manila to train the staff at The Spa on northern-style Thai massage and Champissage, the patented name of an Indian head massage developed by a blind osteopath. Holman Barnes specializes in Asian body therapies and Ayurvedic medicine and maintains the integrity of each tradition where she teaches.

The northern-style Thai massage is a contrast to the popular Bangkok-style massage.

The former consists of acupressure and assisted stretches. The Bangkok or Phuket Beach-style tends to be rough and jerky with a lot of cracking and popping.

Thai massage is one of the ancient healing arts of traditional Thai medicine. Because this art involves an intricate sequence of twisting and stretching similar to yoga exercises, soft tissue pressing and joint manipulation, some prefer to call it "Thai bodywork" or "lazy man's yoga."

It is a member of a group of Oriental bodywork based on the principle that energy flows through the main channels in the body. Thai massage has similarities to the Ayurvedic massage and *tui na* or acupressure. These influences can be attributed to Thailand's nearness to China and its post as a trade route from India.

ON HEALING/p.D2

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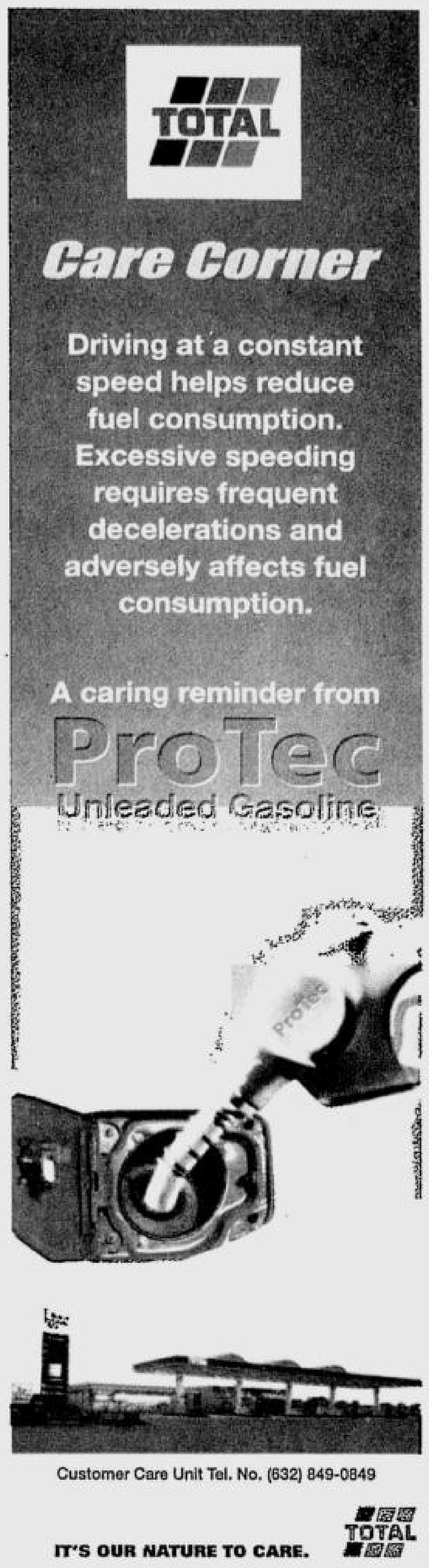

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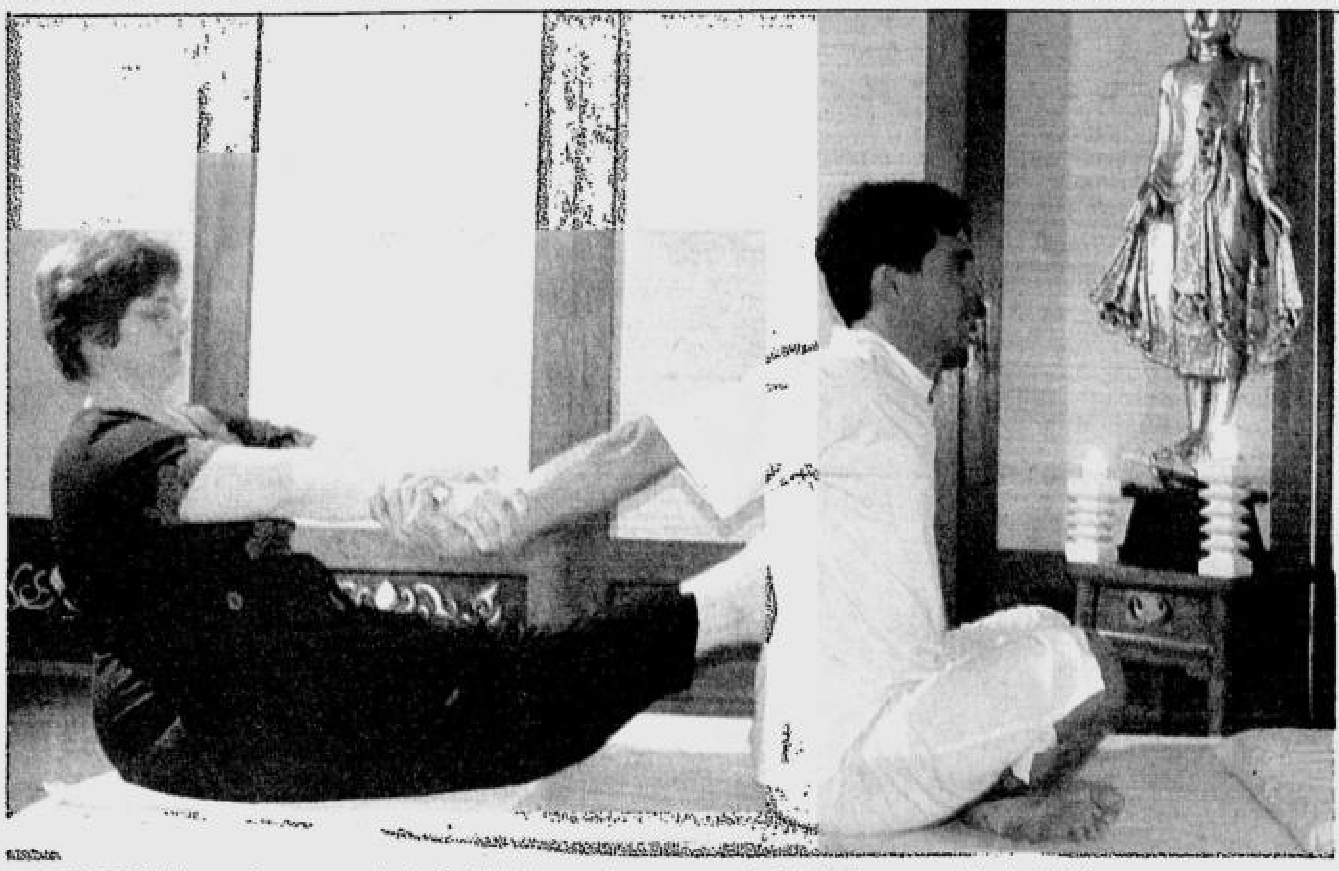

MARIELLE Holman Barnes assists Patrick Torres in a yoga stretch to improve his flexibility.

On healing grounds

(From page D1)

According to Oriental medicine, energy flows through meridians, which are linked to a different organ. These energy channels are called *sen* in Thai, *qi* in Chinese and *prana* in Sanskrit. Along each are points that must be invigorated to treat disorders caused by the clogging of energy pathways. Traditionally, *wats* (temples or monasteries) have not only been the center of Buddhism but also the provider of the people's health needs. The most famous is Wat Pho, the national center for Thai medicine.

Meditative

Thai massage started out as a Buddhist rite. The giver of the massage offers peace and total concern for the recipient's pains. Thai massage becomes a healing experience when the giver applies gentle and meditative pressure. This is his way of expressing respect for the recipient. His benevolent preoccupation in relaxing the recipient is itself a source of positive energy.

The bodywork is done on a mat on the floor, with a thin pillow to prop up the receiver's head. The Thai massage practitioner prays for guidance and energy so he can help remove the receiver's energy blockages and ease sore muscles.

In Western massage, the client strips and oil is slathered on the body to facilitate kneading and long strokes. In Thai massage, the recipient wears loose clothing so the body can be stretched in many ways from different positions to loosen up the joints. People need not be inhibited about having to strip.

Treatment starts at the feet as the massage practitioner applies gentle pressure from the palms and thumbs. Then the recipient brings his knees to the chest and breathes deeply to relax the lower back. The massage practitioner works from the legs to the body. The constant rocking motion is another characteristic of this treatment. Rocking back and forth with straight arms and a straight back make an effective use of body weight and leverage. In the next phase, the recipient sits down for stretches and manipulations. Thai massage lasts for two to three hours for maximum benefit. About 90 minutes are spent just on acupressure.

"Thai massage should not hurt. The pressure should not be heavy or lead to bruises. It's an enlivening experience," says Holman Barnes.

For people who can't spare three hours, Champissage is an alternative. A Nerendra Mehta, a remedial therapist and masseur, developed this 20-minute treatment. He said that Western massage doesn't focus on the head, neck and shoulders where stress-generated tensions amass. Mehta based his method on a traditional form of head massage. In India, women kneaded vegetable oils into their scalp, neck and shoulders to stimulate the blood flow to the hair follicles, providing nutrients for healthy hair.

Champissage is not only great for removing dandruff flakes. It applies massage and pressing on acupressure points to ease muscular tension in the scalp that leads to eyestrain, headaches and sluggishness. It's great for jetlag and insomnia.

These exotic treatments stimulate the organs and blood flow and thereby strengthen the immune system. It's no wonder that the day spa is looked upon as a place for healing and the fountain of youth.

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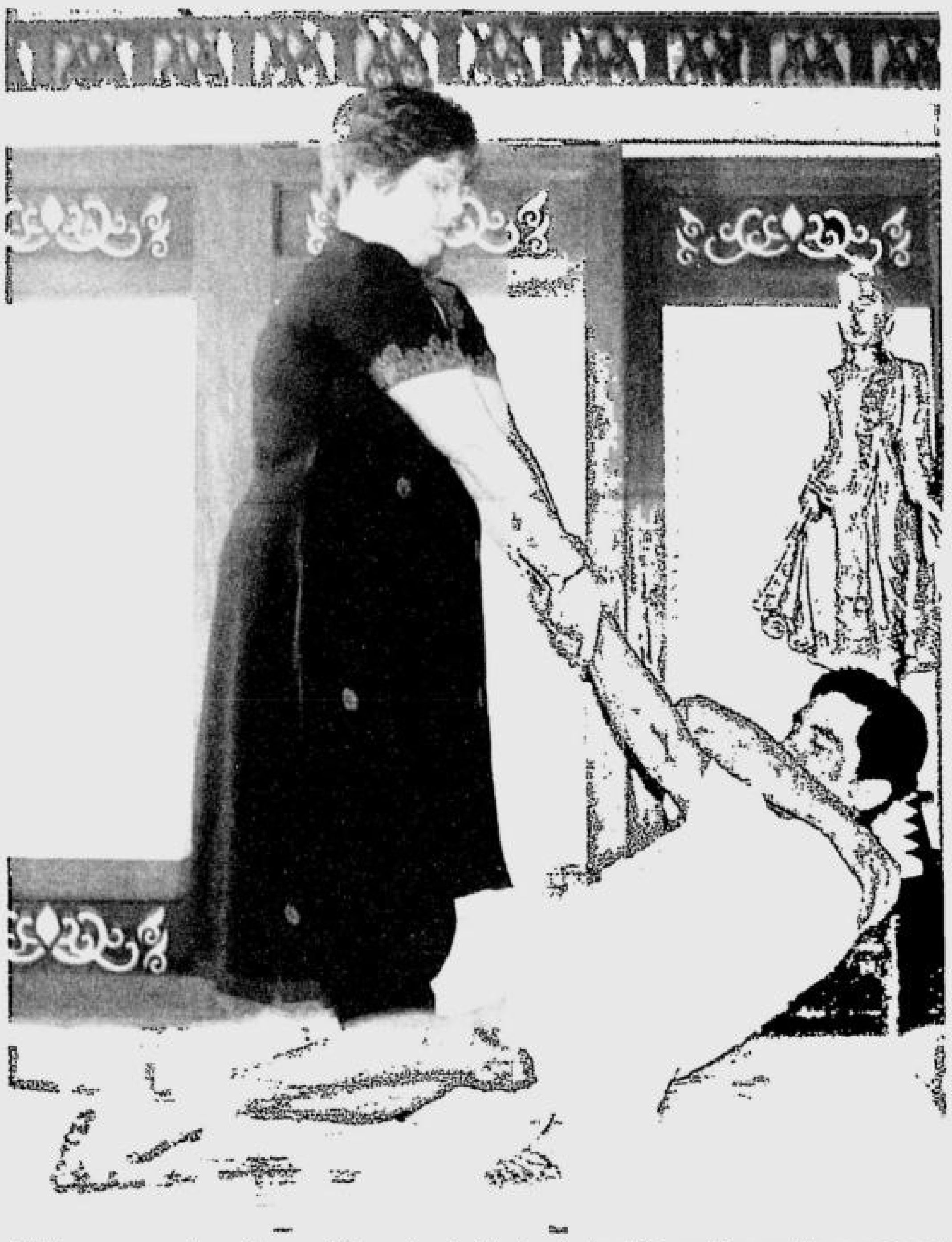

THAI massage allows the practitioner to stretch her body while working on the receiver. It helps her to enter into a meditative state of mind.

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How to tell if your child has ADHD

ATTENTION Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a diagnosis applied to children and adults who are consistently inattentive, hyperactive and impulsive.

In the Philippines, the condition affects 3 to 5 percent of school age children. Unlike other neurological disorders, however, ADHD is not easily detected and does not have clear physical signs that can be seen in an x-ray or a laboratory test.

"It is frustrating in the sense that ADHD has no marker in a child and it takes a lot of observations and cooperation between the parents, teachers and the doctor who is diagnosing the child," notes Dr. Alexis L. Reyes, head of the UP-PGH developmental pediatrics department and professor at the UP College of Medicine.

Breaking myths

The Filipino's penchant for labeling has spawned many myths about ADHD, some of which Dr. Reyes and other ADHD experts have negated. One is that ADHD is the result of faulty parenting. Another is that it is brought on by a certain diet and nutrition. Still another is that children outgrow it, and that ADHD can be cured if it is identified early.

ADHD is a neurobiological disorder that is already in the child from the day she or he was born. However, it can be managed through proper intervention by teachers and parents.

According to the US National Institute of Mental Health, complications of ADHD include learning disabilities, tic disorders, gross and fine motor delays, obsessive-compulsive disorders, oppositional-defiance disorders and even autism.

Symptoms

All children go through different stages of hyperactivity—they climb chairs and trees, they run around uncontrollably, they are quarrelsome. To help parents point out if their child has ADHD, the following symptoms should be watched out for:

- Inattention (six or more of the following symptoms should have persisted for at least six months):

a. Often fails to give close attention to details or makes careless mistakes in schoolwork, work, or other activities.

b. Often has difficulty sustaining attention in tasks or play activities.

c. Often does not seem to listen when spoken to directly.

d. Often does not follow through on instruction and fails to finish schoolwork, chores or duties in the workplace.

e. Often has difficulty organizing tasks and activities.

f. Often avoids or dislikes tasks that require sustained mental effort (such as homework).

g. Often loses things necessary for tasks or activities.

h. Is often easily distracted by extraneous stimuli.

i. Is often forgetful in daily activities.

- Hyperactivity and impulsivity (again, six or more of the following should be present):

a. Often fidgets with hands or feet or squirms in seat.

b. Often leaves seat in classroom or in other situations in which remaining seated is expected.

c. Often runs about or climbs excessively in situation in which it is inappropriate.

d. Often has difficulty playing or engaging in activities quietly.

e. Is often "on the go" or often acts as if "driven by a motor."

f. Often talks excessively.

g. Often blurts out answers before questions have been completed.

h. Often has difficulty awaiting turn.

i. Often interrupts or intrudes on others.

The role of teachers

Without proper treatment and management, a child with ADHD may fall behind in schoolwork, and friendships may suffer. The child may experience more failure than success and is criticized by people who do not recognize that it is a health problem, more than anything.

"A child with ADHD can have a productive life because there are a lot of treatment approaches that can be used," says Dr. Reyes.

This is where proper education comes in. In fact, in a lot of cases, it is the teacher who first recognizes that a child is hyperactive or inattentive. Because they work with a lot of children, teachers know what is appropriate behavior in learning situations that require attention and self-control. Teachers who understand and empathize with children with ADHD make use of every available resource within and outside the school building to be able to help the child.

"Classroom teachers who are trained to handle ADHD cases and other related cases will be able to manage a child in a classroom setting, and eventually be able to help 'temper' a child in a home setting. This is of course in cooperation with the parents, the therapist, the school psychologist, etc.," explains Joji Reynes, acting academic supervisor of Maryridge School, a school which has equipped itself and its staff in handling the said situations.

Maryridge School, located in BF Homes, Parañaque, recognizes the role of teachers in helping improve the "quality of life" of these children who are oftentimes misunderstood. Maryridge School applies the inclusive method wherein "regular" kids are mixed with children afflicted with ADHD/ADD.

Maryridge School allows special accommodations for children with ADHD. For instance, the teacher may seat the child in an area where there are less distractions, or give the kids extra time to finish the test, or put the child in an area where he or she can move around and release excess energy.

"Typically, a classroom setting would require a child to sit down and listen. But knowing that a child has ADHD or other learning difficulties, we combine the appropriate educational practices and counselling so that the child can be managed and helped in reaching his or her potential," says Reynes.

Call 829-1871.

ADHD children need to be taught how to "focus" and this is largely the work of parents, teachers and the developmental pediatrician. In photo, Teacher Joji of Maryridge School tells a story "gripping" enough for children.

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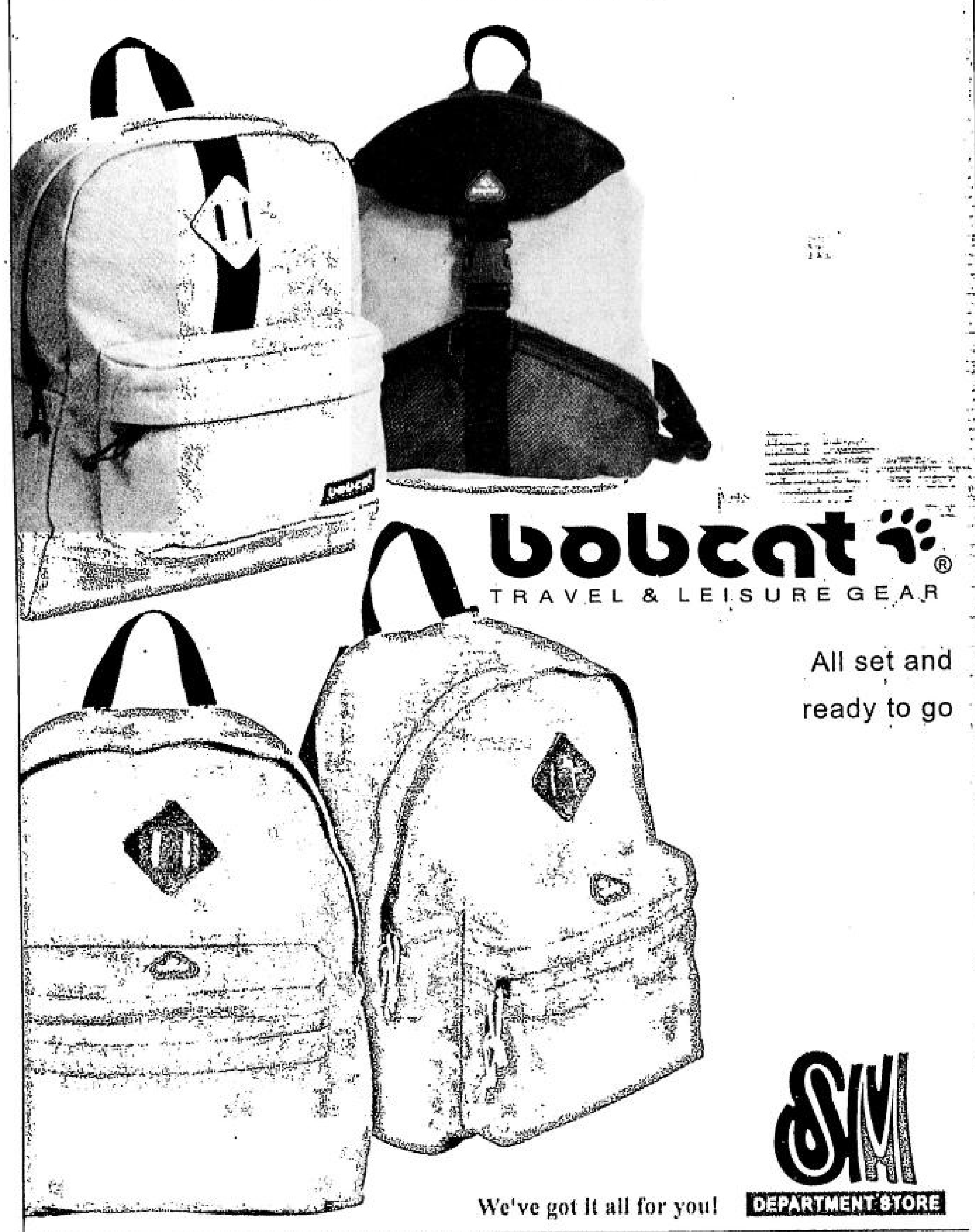

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THE AMERICAN Academy of Dermatology awards Nu Skin Enterprises for its donations to medical research from product sales.

AAD honors Nu Skin, Stanford University for supporting research on fatal skin disease

NU Skin, the personal care subsidiary of Nu Skin Enterprises (NYSE: NUS), was recently presented with the American Academy of Dermatology's prestigious Gold Triangle Award at a special ceremony in New York City. Nu Skin and Stanford University School of Medicine were honored for their combined efforts in generating awareness of and supporting research on epidermolysis bullosa (EB), a debilitating and often fatal skin disease that primarily affects children.

"Nu Skin is a major proponent of dermatological health as well as education and practical, healthy skin care, " said Dr. Al Lane, chair of the Stanford University School of Medicine Department of Dermatology. "Because of Nu Skin's support, we have been able to rapidly move forward on our plans to develop gene therapy for EB."

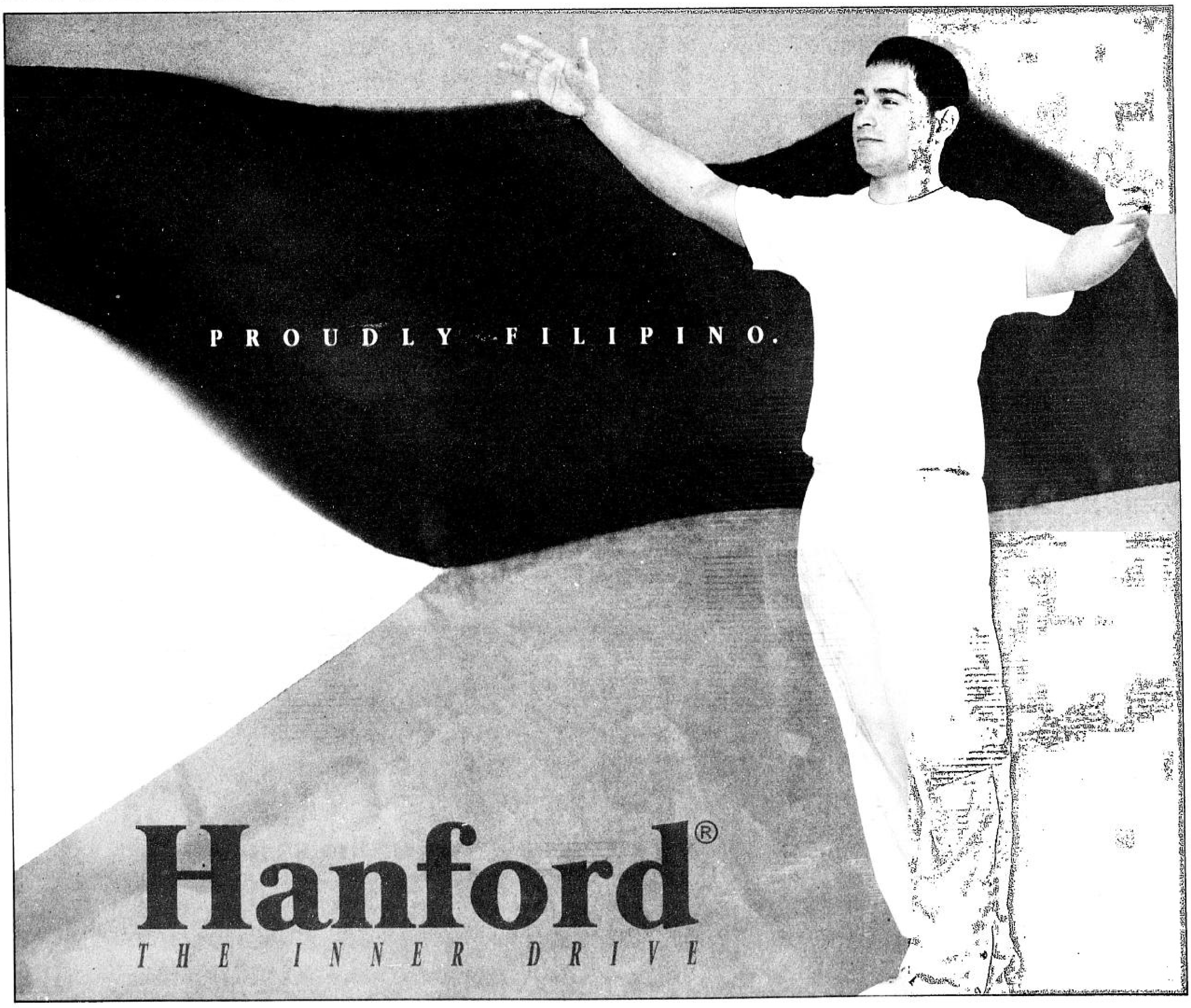
The Gold Triangle Awards recognize media, industry, public service, health community, organizational and individual accomplishments in furthering understanding of dermatology issues and encouraging healthy behaviors in the care of skin, hair and nails. Nu Skin and Stanford were winners in the "Industry Communications Campaign" category and were chosen from among more than 100 award entries. Other winners included Procter and Gamble, CBS, CNN, New York Daily News, McCall's and Fitness magazine.

Nu Skin offers significant monetary support for EB research through donations from product sales and executive stock pledges. Twenty-five cents from the sale of each Nu Skin Epoch Glacial Marine Mud is donated to the EB Medical Research Foundation—nearly $390,000 to date. In addition, Nu Skin Enterprises (chair Blake Roney and his wife Nancy have pledged several million dollars in Nu Skin Enterprises' stock donations to Stanford University School of Medicine to study genetic therapies for skin disorders. Because the contribution is based on fluctuating stock value, it is difficult to determine the exact total, although it is expected to be in excess of $5 million.

"We are very proud of the contributions we have made to the fight against EB, both as a corporation and as individuals," said Sandie Tillotson, senior vice president for Nu Skin Enterprises. "We have the tremendous opportunity to make personal connections with entire families affected by EB. It is an honor to be part of the search for a cure and an end to their suffering."

Nu Skin also continuously educates its over 475,000 independent distributors about EB through Epoch product donations and Nu Skin's Force for Good Foundation. Audio/visual vignettes, executive speeches, press materials, magazine features and other communication tools have combined to inform distributors about the magnitude of EB and rally support for finding a cure.

Nu Skin is a subsidiary of Nu Skin Enterprises. Nu Skin Enterprises and its private affiliates operate in over 30 markets including Asia, Europe, North and South America, Australia and New Zealand. Founded in 1984 in Provo, Utah, Nu Skin markets more than 100 premium quality personal care products created specifically for person-to-person distribution. To order products, contact a local Nu Skin distributor, call the company's toll-free order line in the United States at 1-800-487-1500, or visit the company's website at www.nuskin.com.



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